UNESCO

The Courier

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The memory of mankind

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Photo Raoul Held © Antenne 2, Paris

A time to live...

31 Venezuela

The magic harp

The legends of different countries and peoples have recently been recreated for a world television audience in a series of 26 half-hour films made by the Canadian film company Via le Monde inc. The series, entitled "Légendes du Monde", is the fruit of an ambitious coproduction venture, the participants in which include the second channel of French TV, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Unesco's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture. Each film dramatizes a legend using actors from the country in which it is set. Photo is a still from "The Magic Harp", a Venezuelan story which tells how young Felipe's musicianship saves his father from financial ruin.

unesco
The Courier
A window open on the world

Editorial

OVER the past twenty years a quiet but profound revolution has taken place in the world of libraries and archives. The first eddies of the wind of change were felt among the bookshelves with the irruption of the computer on the world scene. Its seemingly unlimited powers encouraged a flurry of wild speculation. Its arrival, it was said, heralded the era of the "paperless office", and there were those who did not hesitate to announce the imminent demise of the book.

Today the computer has come of age. The menacing mystery has turned out to be a friendly servant whose ministrations affect every aspect of our daily lives. Far from killing off the book, it offers the possibility of easy access for all to the world's libraries and archives and has itself become the subject matter of thousands of new books and periodicals.

Other audio-visual technologies are playing their part too. In particular, the simple cassette recorder is at this moment filling a key role in saving for posterity that other source of distilled wisdom, the oral tradition of many cultures of the Third World.

In our enthusiasm for these new technologies and the immense possibilities they open up, we should not forget that behind the sleek machines lies the dedicated intellectual and planning effort both of brilliant individual men and women and of many non-governmental, national and international organizations.

Among the latter Unesco can claim to play an irreplaceable role. Under its Major Programme VII, *Information Systems and Access to Knowledge,* it has been steadfastly pursuing four objectives which merit being quoted here extensively:

(I) to develop standards, rules, methods, guiding principles and other normative tools for the processing and transfer of specialized information and the creation of compatible information systems;

(II) to enable developing countries, individually or on a regional basis, to set up their own data bases and to have access to those now in existence throughout the world;

(III) to promote the development of specialized regional information networks in co-operation with the appropriate international regional organizations;

(IV) to contribute to the harmonious development of compatible international information services and systems among the organizations of the United Nations system.

This issue of the *Unesco Courier* presents a far from exhaustive account of some of the problems facing archives and libraries today. These problems are summed up in the words of American educator Ernest L. Boyer: "Television extends human sight, computers extend memory and ability for calculation. Books extend wisdom. It is now our task to fit together these tools, the new ones with the old." This is a task to which Unesco is firmly committed.

Front cover: Decorated spines of Bohemian Land Registers dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries. These *Tabulae Terrae,* some of which date back to before the Battle of the White Mountain (1620), are among the most precious possessions of the Czechoslovak archives and are the rarest archival documents of their kind in the whole of central Europe.
Photo © Archivní Správa Praha

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38th year

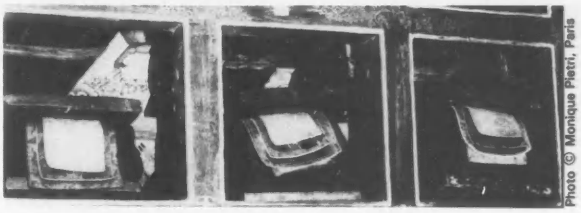
Photo © Monique Pietri, Paris

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VENEZUELA: *The magic harp*

Back cover: The library of the 15th-century Lingshed monastery, Zaskar, northern India. Stored in the huge, pigeon-hole bookshelves are many ancient sacred Buddhist scriptures, including several volumes of the Kagyur (the collected sayings of the Buddha) and the Tangyur (a book of commentaries). The books consist of fine but strong sheets of rice-paper, with woodcut printing on both sides. There is no binding, the sheets being simply stacked together, wrapped in yellow or orange silk or brocade and clamped between two planks of engraved wood. The volumes are identified by silk labels.
Photo © Monique Pietri, Paris

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The memory of mankind

by Jorge Luis Borges

MY father's library was the crowning event of my life. There, through my father's voice, that mysterious thing poetry was revealed to me, as were maps, and illustrations, then more precious to me than the printed word. There I discovered Grimm, Lewis Carroll and the virtually infinite Thousand and One Nights. Later I wrote in a poem:

and I imagined paradise
in the form of a library.

Seneca, in one of his letters to Lucilius, made fun of a man who had a library of a hundred volumes. In my long life I do not think I have read a hundred volumes but I have dipped into rather more.

Above all, encyclopaedias: from Pliny to Brockhaus, via Isidore of Seville, Diderot, and the eleventh edition of the Britannica, the golden spines of which I imagine in the motionless penumbra of blindness, they are, for an idle and curious man the most delightful of literary forms.

Libraries are the memory of mankind. An infamous memory, said Shaw, but with it we shall build a future which will resemble, however slightly, our hopes.

The Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges (born 1899) was director of his country's National Library, in Buenos Aires, from 1955 to 1973.

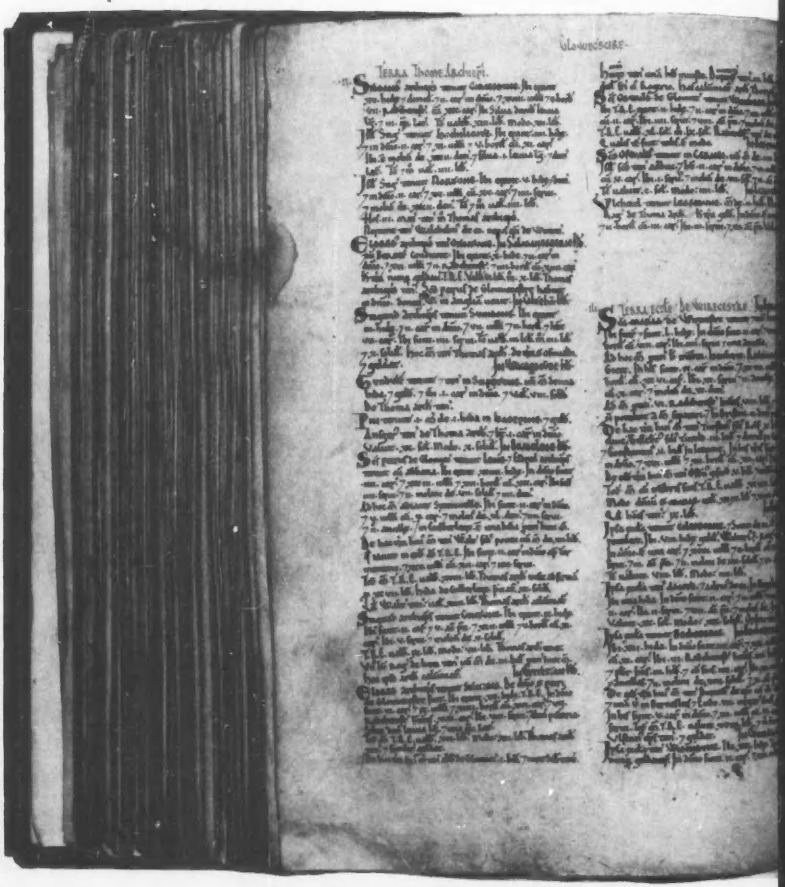


Photo © Public Record Office, London

Domesday Book

The two volumes of which Domesday Book consists are the outcome of a general survey of England ordered by William the Conqueror in 1085. Originally known as the Book of Winchester, by the mid-12th century it had acquired the name of Domesday (the Day of Judgement) because there was no appeal from it. The first volume, right, known as Great Domesday, contains the final summarized record of all the counties surveyed except Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. According to a note at the end of the smaller volume, the survey was made in 1086.

Libraries and archives for tomorrow

by J. Stephen Parker

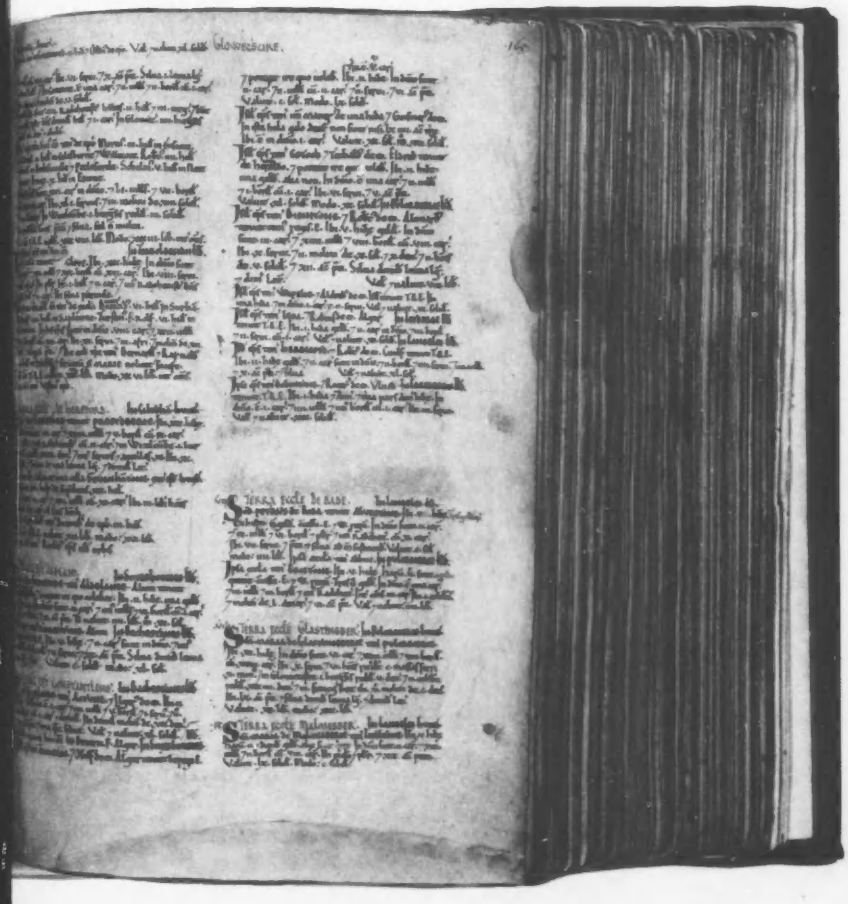
THE ability to communicate, not only across great distances but also by means of written and graphic records, is a distinctively human characteristic; and the creation, dissemination, preservation and use of such records are uniquely human activities which have played a vital role in the development of human civilization.

From earliest times organized collections of records have been made for different purposes. Libraries, as a rule, have brought together records from many different sources, for use particularly in research and study. Archives, on the other hand, have usually comprised collections of records associated with a particular institution—a commercial firm, a government department, an academic institution or an entire community—brought together as a record of its activities for administrative, legal or historical reasons.

Broadly speaking, in many archives the emphasis has been on preservation, whereas, in libraries, greater emphasis has usually been placed on use. Although it is usually clear enough whether a particular institution is a library or an archive (in fact, many libraries contain collections of archives and many archives maintain their own libraries), the theoretical distinction between them is by no means precise and both may equally well be defined as "collections of documentary or other records organized for use".

The present century has seen an increasing emphasis on the final word of this definition ("use") and the development of ever more sophisticated and effective ways of organizing such collections, of providing guidance as to what they contain and of providing a variety of services to their users to help ensure that they are used to their maximum advantage.

Documentation services, designed to provide access to the contents of documents through indexes, abstracts and the like, and information services, intended to extract from documentary and other sources precisely those items of information required by the user, have become increasingly important in recent years as the volume of documents being produced throughout the world has itself increased at an exponential rate, as the needs of users have become ever more sophisticated and as developments in information technology have made it possible to manipulate the vast amounts of information now being generated.



To meet potential users' vast range of needs, a wide variety of institutions and services have been developed. In recent years national, university, public, school and special libraries, mobile libraries and library services to the housebound and the hospital patient, specialized documentation and information services and archives in all fields have been established with increasing frequency.

The traditional demand for the complete document is still being met, in many cases, by allowing it to be studied in a reference library or reading room, or by making it available for loan; it may now also be met by delivering a copy of the document, either full size or in microform, and either by post or by telefacsimile. The complete texts of many documents are now being stored in computer systems and made available for consultation, possibly thousands of kilometres away from the computer, either on the screen of a visual display unit or in paper copy produced on another computer's printer.

Computers also make it possible to search the entire texts of such documents for key words or phrases and thus to supply users with specific items of information without having to reproduce the document in full. The identification of specific documents, whatever their format, is now made infinitely easier and quicker through the creation of computerized bibliographic databases containing millions of references to documents of all kinds published in almost all parts of the world. Computerized databanks containing statistical and scientific data may also now be consulted directly.

There have been suggestions that such systems will one day render libraries and archives obsolete, but it seems more likely that, as with other modern communications technologies such as television, they will supplement existing methods rather than supplant them, becoming generally accepted particularly in those areas, such as the provision of specific items of factual or bibliographic information, where they are clearly superior to traditional methods.

It must be recognized also that many of the new media—floppy discs, magnetic ▶

▶ tapes, laser discs, etc.—are themselves documentary records and thus are susceptible to the techniques of organization and management which have been developed and employed in libraries and archives for many years.

The new media also bring new problems for librarians and archivists. A record which is created and permanently stored in a computer may never have a hard copy capable of being preserved in a conventional archive. Indeed, some documents are specifically intended to be modified at will by certain groups of users and thus may never have, even in electronic format, an identifiable "master" or archival text which can be recognized as such for record purposes. Even those which do have such a master text, particularly if they are in magnetic format, may create serious problems of preservation and storage for archivists.

Reference was made earlier to bibliographic databases which may contain references to documents published in almost any part of the world. One difficult and sensitive problem associated with the new information technology is the great and growing disparity between rich and poor countries, not only in terms of gaining access to such systems, but also in the extent to which information which they themselves have generated is made available through such systems.

Photo © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

This 9th-century Chinese painting depicts a Buddhist pilgrim heavily laden with manuscripts. At his feet is a serpent and a tiger walks at his side. In the top left hand corner a Buddha is to be seen seated on a lotus flower.

Not only are the vast majority of the computerized databases and databanks located in the richer countries of the industrialized world, chiefly in Europe and North America, but an overwhelming proportion of the information they contain is generated in and relates to the interests of these same countries.

Access to such databases from almost any part of the world where suitable telecommunications facilities exist is certainly possible, but it is often prohibitively expensive, not only in terms of the charges imposed by the information providers for the use of the databases, but also in telecommunications costs. Furthermore, the information obtained at such expense is often of only marginal relevance to the needs and problems of the developing world.

This is not a new problem. Librarians in the developing countries have for many years been faced with a lack of adequate supplies of books and periodicals in local languages that are relevant to local needs. This raises the further problem of obtaining foreign exchange to buy the only available alternatives: expensive foreign books of little relevance to their users' needs.

The need for programmes of book development to help redress this imbalance has long been recognized and, in some countries significant progress has been made. The growing dominance of the new information technologies, exhibiting a similar bias towards the interests of the industrialized countries, suggests that the time has come to devise and implement similar programmes of information development which will help the developing countries to become more self-sufficient in this respect.

Unesco has been concerned with these problems ever since its inception. Its activities in the fields of library and book development, often undertaken in collaboration with other inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies, have played a major part, not only in drawing attention to these problems, but also, in some cases at least, in helping to solve them.

Unesco supports, for example, the efforts of the *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)* to develop worldwide programmes for *Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC)* and *Universal Availability of Publications (UAP),* whilst its own *Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP),* which operates within the framework of the Unesco *General Information Programme,* is implemented in close collaboration with the *International Council on Archives (ICA).*

Within the framework of its UNISIST programme (also part of the *General Information Programme),* Unesco has, since 1971, been collaborating with the *International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)* and with other international bodies in attempting to lay the foundations for a world

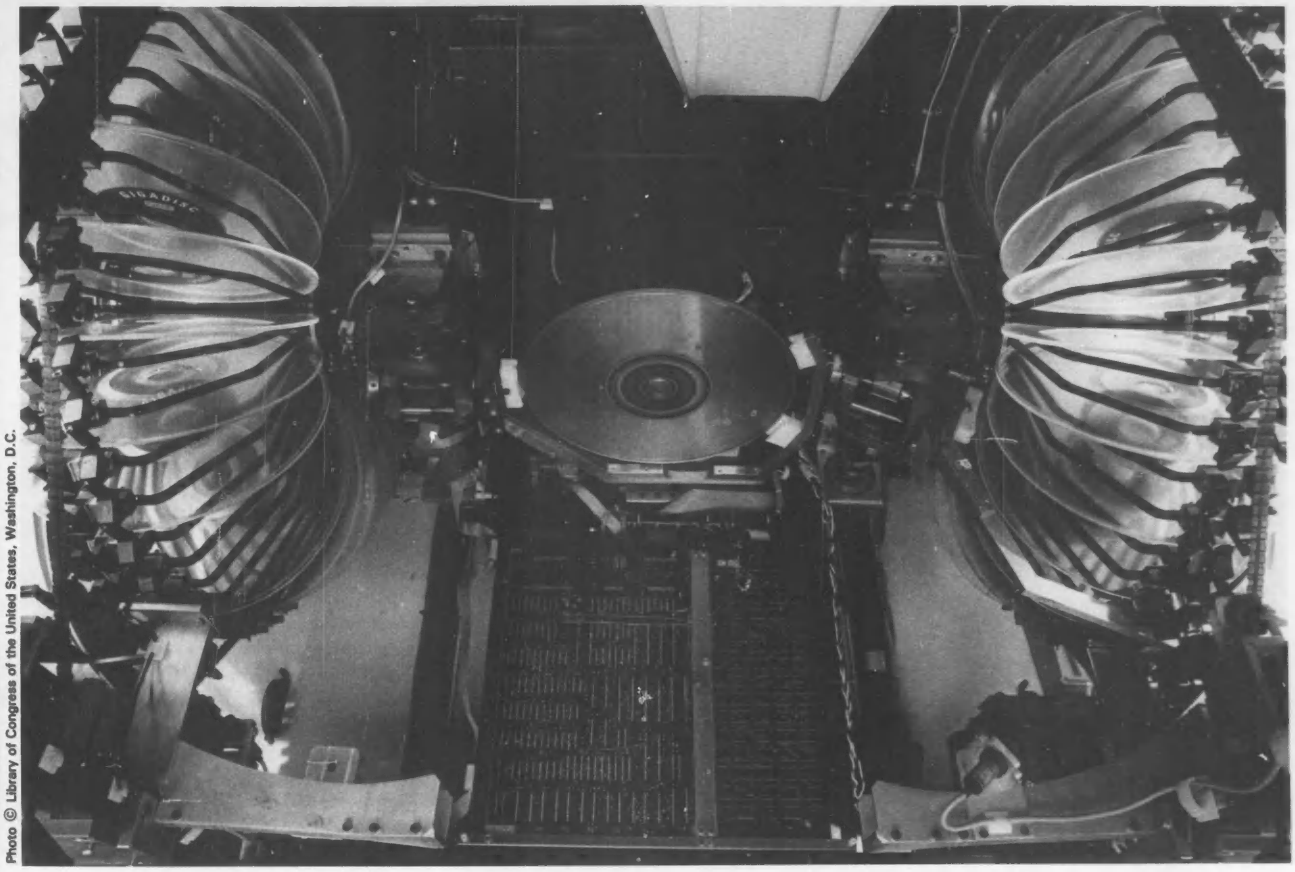


Photo © Library of Congress of the United States, Washington, D.C.

In 1983, the Library of Congress of the United States began experiments with analog videodisks for storage and retrieval of graphic and photographic materials in colour. Already researchers are using this system for speedy, non-destructive access to precious and fragile visual materials. Experiments are also being conducted with optical digital disks that store incredible quantities of print material with high resolution. A one-sided 12-inch digital disk can store between 10,000 and 20,000 pages of text depending on the resolution required. One side of an analog disk can store up to 54,000 images. Above, the "juke-box", a machine that stores and retrieves Library of Congress optical disks. This new technology offers improved storage retrieval and preservation combined with greater flexibility of access.

scientific information system which would, among other things, help to ensure a more equitable distribution of scientific and technological information throughout the world.

These efforts are now also being applied in support of the establishment of a global information network under the auspices of the United Nations itself, in accordance with the recommendations of the *United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)*, held in Vienna in 1979.

Despite the changes being brought about by the introduction of new information technology, there seems little doubt that libraries and archives will continue to be needed throughout the world in the foreseeable future. A well organized library is much more than just a source of information, and a well organized archive is not merely a repository of facts. The importance of both types of institution lies in the fact that, in their different ways, they bring documents into physical juxtaposition, in an environment conducive to their study; this provides an opportunity not merely for the retrieval of known facts but also for seeking knowledge, inspiration and wisdom, as well as recreation and enlightenment. ■

J. STEPHEN PARKER, *of the United Kingdom, is editor of the new international journal* Information Development *and chairman and managing director of Library Development Consultants International Ltd., Bath, England. He was the first director of the National Library Service of Botswana and has undertaken assignments for many national and international bodies. From 1981 to 1982 he was editor of the* Unesco Journal of Information Science, Librarianship and Archives.

One of the jewels of the State Archives of Luxembourg is a series of drawings taken from the list of quit-rents due to the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Willibrord. The list was drawn up around the year 1600 by the Abbot Jean Bertels (1544-1607) and the drawings with which he illustrated it constitute a rich source of information about the people, the towns and the countryside of the region at the turn of the 16th century. The caption to the drawing right reads:* This place is called "Der Roost". It pays us a tithe for the crops. This makes twelve maldres *(Middle English "melder", a measure of grain).

Drawing © State Archives, Luxembourg

Retour de Robinson dans son Isle.

Photo © International Youth Library, Munich

Universal bibliographic control

With the increasing growth of international exchange of information, it has become indispensable to harmonize national bibliographic systems and to make them compatible. This is the main purpose of the *Universal Bibliographic Control* (UBC) programme, launched by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and with which Unesco became associated in 1974. In the words of Günther Pflug, Director-General of the *Deutsche Bibliothek*, Frankfurt (Fed. Rep. of Germany), the UBC "is intended to guarantee universal information about literary production on a country-by-country basis. One of the most important tasks of this programme is undoubtedly to promote the creation of national bibliographies in those countries where they have not yet been introduced". The aim therefore is to strengthen national bibliographic control and to develop and bring into use international standards and other normative tools. The programme's essential practical aim is to prevent duplication of efforts in cataloguing and bibliographic recording.

Founded in Munich in 1948 by Jella Lepman, the International Youth Library is the only central library in the world specializing in literature for children and young people. Since 1953 it has been an Associated Project of Unesco, and in 1969 Unesco donated to it 28,000 books from the International Bureau of Education in Geneva. In 1982 its holdings totalled some 380,000 volumes in over 120 languages, and new acquisitions amounted to 15,000 each year. The Library has a historic collection of 50,000 books for children and young people published before 1945. Left, an illustration from the Library's edition of* The Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, *published in Amsterdam in 1721.

Contested records

The legal status of national archives

by Charles Kecskemeti

ARCHIVES are tools of government, indispensable for the management of a country's affairs. In Europe this circumstance led as early as the seventeenth century to the widespread adoption of a juridico-diplomatic practice whereby agreements made when there was a change of sovereignty over a given piece of territory (and such changes were frequent after wars or settlements between ruling houses) regularly made provision for the exchange or remittance of archives. Research in 1977 produced a list, not claimed to be exhaustive, of 157 agreements of this kind concluded since 1601. But this practice, however deeply entrenched it may have been, did not lead to the establishment of international standards for the cession and sharing of archives, and as a result the provisions of different agreements vary to a startling extent. The only generally observed practice was that the originals or copies of documents necessary for the conduct of routine affairs were handed over to the successor State.

The absence of established doctrine had very serious consequences when the colonial system was wound up. With few exceptions, the achievement of independence by the former colonies did not give rise to agreements regarding the devolution of archives. The measures taken by the colonial powers did not obey any single logic and ranged from the return of all documents to return on a selective, albeit massive, basis. Apart from certain countries such as Algeria or India which made known their claims immediately after independence, this *de facto* situation seemed to be implicitly accepted everywhere. Clearly this was an illusion, and it was inevitable that the question would be raised sooner or later at the international level since an essential part of the historical evidence relating to over a hundred countries was (and still is) outside their national frontiers.

The matter was put before Unesco's General Conference in 1974, and since attitudes were firmly entrenched a prolonged controversy might have been feared. This was avoided thanks to Unesco's insistence on drawing up, as rapidly as the complexity of the problem allowed, a document acceptable to all its Member States. Work carried out over a four-year period in collaboration with the International Council on Archives led to the development of an entirely new intellectual approach.

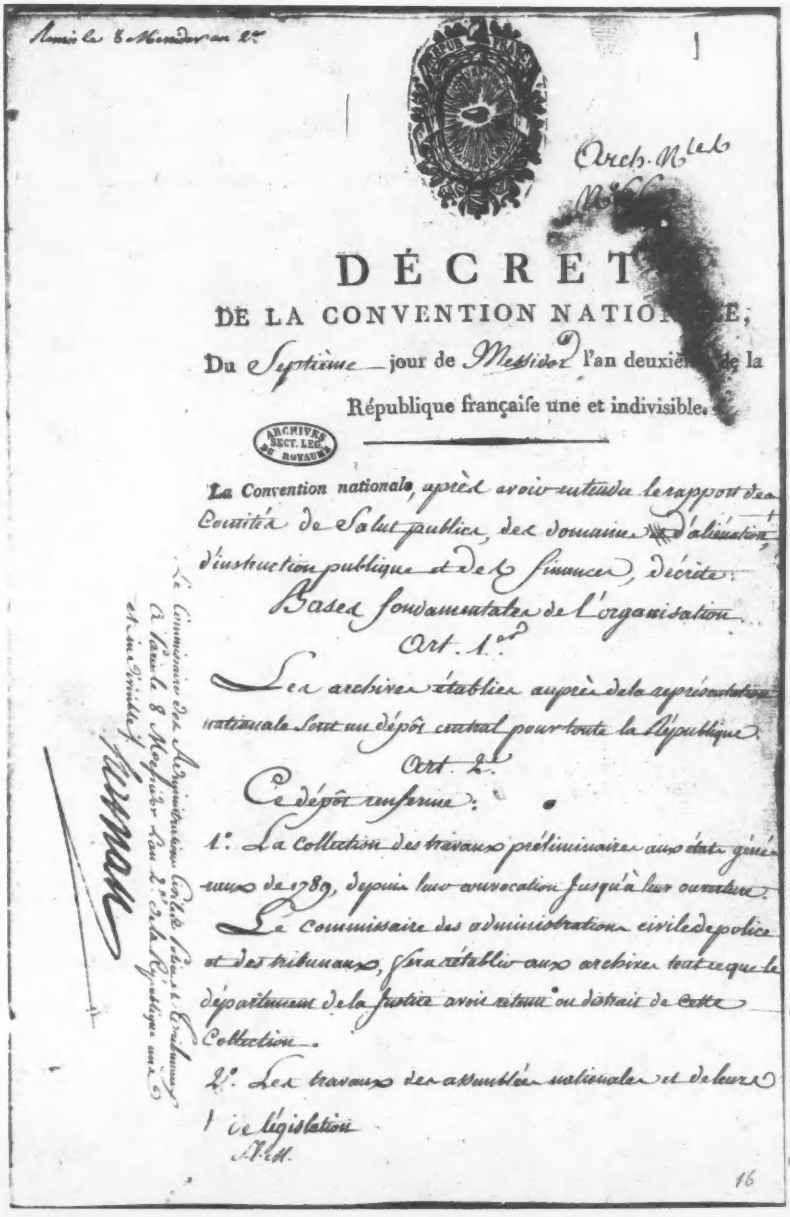
A general typology was proposed, for application to the vast range of situations in which disputes involving archives could arise :

— A change in sovereignty over a territory without the creation of a new State (territorial claims, although increasingly rare, still exist);

— The transfer of archives during wars or as a consequence of military occupation;

— The creation of new States as a result of the disintegration of existing political entities (Bangladesh is a recent example);

— Situations created by decolonization, each calling for a specific approach: the return of archives to the metropolitan country; the existence of archives of regional colonial administrative services relating to ▶


DÉCRET
DE LA CONVENTION NATIONALE;
Du Septième jour de Messidor l'an deuxième de la
République française une et indivisible.
ARCHIVES SECT. LEG. ROYALE
La Convention nationale, après avoir entendu le rapport des Comités de Salut public, des domaines d'aliénation, d'instruction publique et de finances, décrète:
Base fondamentale de l'organisation.
Art. 1er.
Les archives établies auprès de la représentation nationale sont un dépôt central pour toute la République.
Art. 2.
Ce dépôt renferme:
1°. La collection des travaux préliminaires aux états généraux de 1789, depuis leur convocation jusqu'à leur ouverture.
Le commissaire des administrations civile de police et des tribunaux, sera établi aux archives toutes que le département de la justice aura retiré ou distrait de cette collection.
2°. Les travaux des assemblées nationales et de leurs comités de législation
A.N.
16

The first page of the law of 7 messidor year II (25 June 1794) promulgated by the National Convention, the revolutionary assembly which founded the first French Republic in 1792. The law broke new ground in placing all the archives of a country under the control of a "central depository" and established free access to public archives for all citizens.

Photo © Archives Nationales, Paris

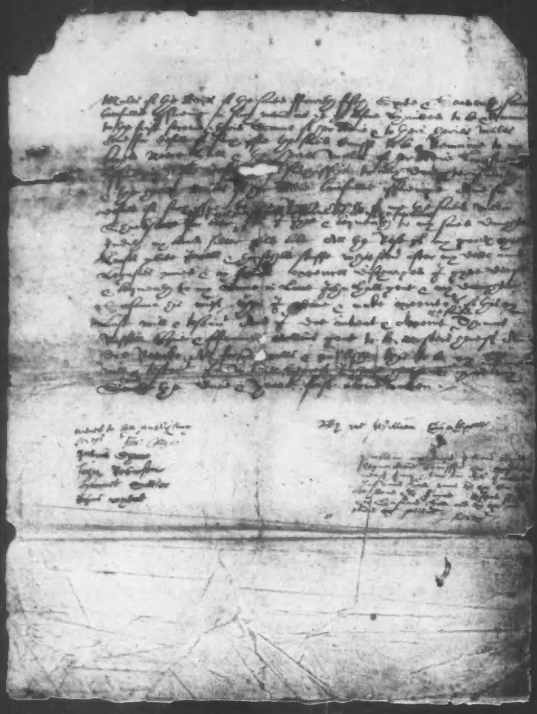


Photo : Public Record Office, London

The last page of the will of William Shakespeare, dated 25 March 1616 (the poet died on 23 April). The signatures at the foot of each of the document's three pages are the only specimens of Shakespeare's own hand. This one, tremulously written, reads: "By me William Shakpeare".

Photo : National Archives of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro

Text of the oath sworn by Pedro I, emperor of Brazil from 1822 to 1831, after promulgation of the country's first constitution.

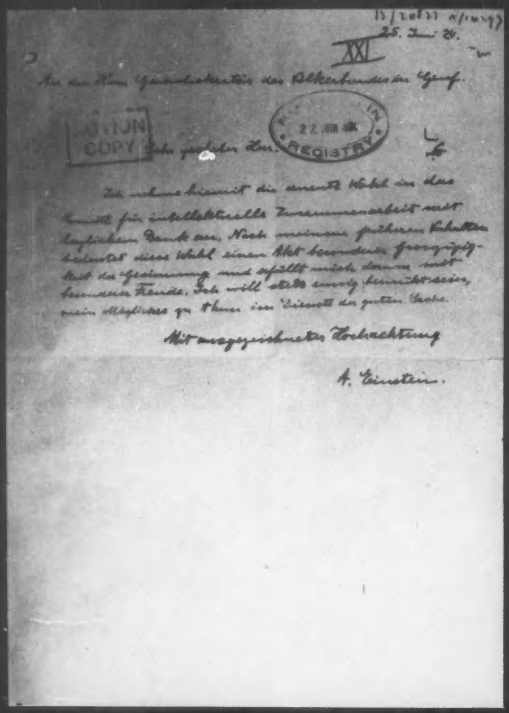


Photo : Bibliothèque Nationale, Archives de la Société des Nations, Geneva

With this autograph document dated 25 June 1924 Albert Einstein accepted his re-election as a member of the international committee for intellectual co-operation created by the League of Nations.

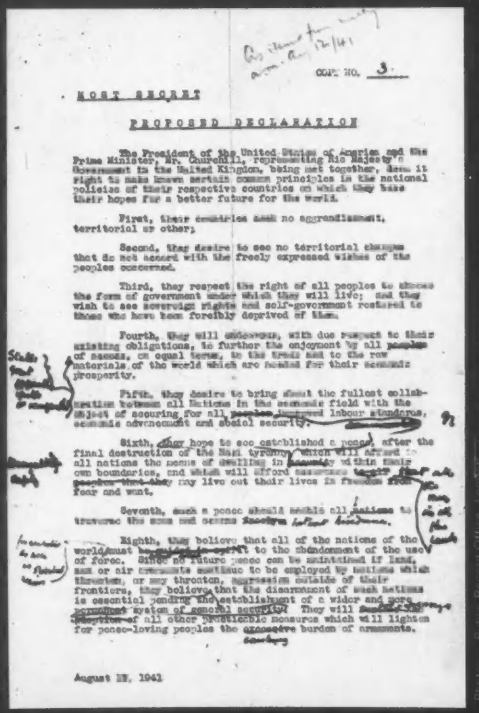


Photo : Public Record Office, London

In August 1941, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt met at sea and proclaimed the Atlantic Charter, the principles of which foreshadowed those of the United Nations Charter of 1945. Above, draft of the Atlantic Charter dated 12 August 1941. Corrections and amendments are in Churchill's own hand.

During the Second World War, Warsaw, the capital of Poland, was 90 per cent destroyed by the Nazi occupation forces. When the city was rebuilt, archive documents provided essential information, especially for the reconstruction of the old quarter. Right, 16th-century engraving of the city is taken from* The Capitals of Europe, a guide to the sources for the history of their architecture and construction *(1980), an international publication (bilingual: French and English) produced on the initiative of the International Council on Archives with the financial assistance of Unesco.

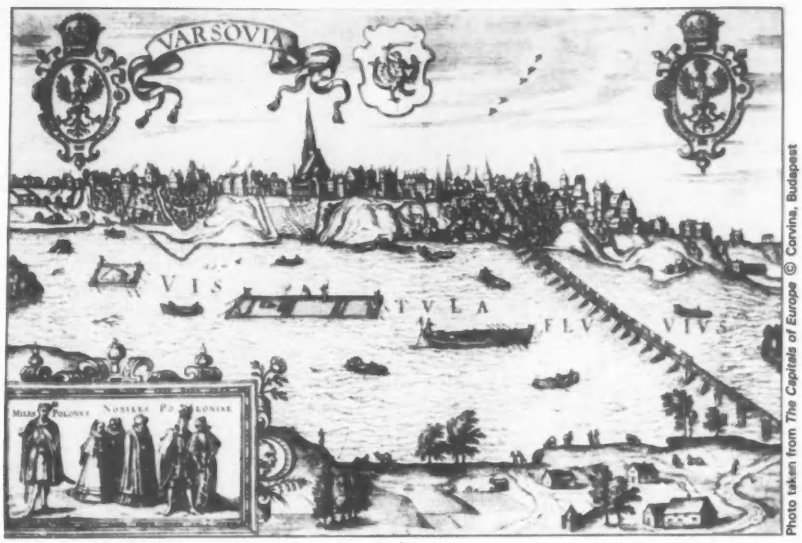


Photo taken from *The Capitals of Europe* © Corvina, Budapest

several independent States; the existence of archives created and preserved in the metropolitan countries, etc.

With the same purpose of obtaining a consensus, certain concepts were formulated to enable the parties concerned in bilateral negotiations to "speak the same language". Principles which were invalid because of their imprecision also had to be brushed aside. One of these was the notion of "territorial relevance" which lent itself to widely divergent interpretations and in the past gave rise to veritable "massacres" of archives. The classic case of this was the dismemberment of documents, with different pages going to different places depending on the information in them, carried out in accordance with the Treaty of Turin concluded in 1816 between Savoy and Geneva.

It was also necessary to define a special status for holdings of archives which are of equal interest to countries with a shared history and which if dismembered would lose all value as sources of information. The formula adopted here was that of *common heritage,* with the physical conservation of archives being entrusted to one of the partners and the same rights of access and copying being recognized for the others.

Finally, Unesco rallied the international community in support of a key idea, of the need to undertake a task of historic importance: the reconstitution of archive heritages through the transfer of microfilms.

This is a formidable challenge. Counting only the most fully stocked archives in eight former metropolitan countries (Belgium, Spain, the United States, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom), the total number of photos to be taken probably amounts to somewhere in the region of 250 million, representing almost a century of uninterrupted work for twenty-five technicians. This does not of course include preliminary filing and inventory work which it would be pointless to try to calculate in terms of time and money.

Without special resources, the systematic microfilming of archives for countries wishing to reconstitute their heritage is out of the question. At the rate at which routine operations are currently taking place, and the production capacities of archive laboratories rule out any acceleration, this task would take a thousand or two thousand years, perhaps more. This is not to be wondered at, for after all these documents are the result of work done by thousands of officials, officers, magistrates, lawyers and sailors during one, two or three centuries.

Nevertheless, these figures and speculations about cost should neither cause alarm nor obscure the praetical aspects of the problem. A vast microfilming programme for the developing countries can be undertaken on three conditions:

— that financial resources should be available over a long period to enable the archives involved to increase the productive capacity of their studios and workshops;

— that action should be planned at the international level in order to use such productive capacity to the full;

— that conditions for the reception of the microfilms should be the responsibility of the public record offices of the countries wishing to reconstitute their heritage by this means.

The third millennium is at hand. It would be neither reasonable nor fitting to postpone to the twenty-first century a task which is perfectly feasible today. ■

CHARLES KECSKEMETI, *of France, has been executive secretary of the International Council on Archives since 1969. He is the author of many articles, including two studies, published by Unesco, on the settlement of disputes involving archives.*

Photo © National Archives of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

The National Archives building of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. It was built in 1982 with Unesco aid, in accordance with the latest standards. In order to provide the best possible conditions for the preservation of documents, a system of air conditioning maintains a constant temperature and humidity level, and the emission of ultra-violet rays by the lighting system has been reduced to a minimum.

Photo © Annick Turner, Bamako

African archives and the oral tradition

by Ali A. Mazrui

HOW important are archives for Africa? Do we not have more serious problems of malnutrition, ignorance, disease, political instability, and general underdevelopment?

Let me answer the question indirectly. In one of the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle there is a reference to the dog that did not bark. The importance of the evidence was negative. If the dog on guard had not barked, the intruder must have been someone familiar to the dog. The dog's silence was the devastating piece of evidence, the telling clue.

My concern in this essay is with the historical importance of something equally negative—the comparative weakness of the archival tradition in Africa and its devastating consequences for the history of our people. Africa was silent about its history; the African archival dog did not bark at crucial moments. This had serious consequences for Africa's place in international stratification.

The archival tradition may be defined, quite simply, as a cultural preoccupation with keeping records, a tradition of capturing the past through preserved documentation. This means much more than establishing national archives; it means a particular propensity for recording the dates of births and marriages, collecting maps, preserving love letters, and keeping household accounts, as well as documenting treaties, contracts and the like. Because the archival tradition was weak in Africa, the scientific tradition became weak, our languages atrophied and so did philosophical tradition—with ghastly consequences for our peoples across the centuries.

Why was the archival tradition weak in Africa? Firstly because most indigenous African cultures refuse to regard the past as a bygone or the present as transient. The ancestors are still with us and we ourselves will be ancestors. If the present is not transient why bother to record it?

A related reason for the weakness of the archival tradition in African cultures is the weakness of the calendar tradition (including the tradition of the clock). Many of my fellow students in Mombasa, Kenya, in the 1940s did not know when they were born. The first president of my country, President Jomo Kenyatta, did not know when he was born.

There is a Gregorian calendar, an Islamic calendar, an Indian calendar, a Chinese calendar—but no African calendar apart from the revised Orthodox Christian calendar of Ethiopia.

The third reason for the weakness of the archival tradition in Africa is the weakness of the written word. Many African societies have only come to know the written word during the last century.

This is not to say that Africa is uniform. Quite apart from other differences the continent as a whole operates within a triple heritage of culture. This triple heritage consists of indigenous, Islamic and Western traditions.

Modern archives are mainly Western in conception, and they are also Islamic to some extent. But can they be indigenized? Or are they inevitably part of the imported sections of Africa's triple heritage?

To the extent that archives until recently have been viewed almost entirely as collections of *written* records, the indigenous aspects of the triple heritage have not been viewed as archival material. Muslim Africa has been better endowed with written records than non-Muslim indigenous Africa. These records in Islamic societies have sometimes been in the Arabic language, but they have also sometimes been in African languages using the Arabic script.

But what is a document? Here we are mainly concerned with the written word. But there are five categories of documentation in all:

— Material documentation such as archaeological evidence, from pottery to Great Zimbabwe, from skeletons to coins.

— Written documentation: a mystical reverence for the symbols of literacy has conditioned our view of what constitutes archival relevance itself.

— Pictorial documentation, including painting or carving on rocks.

— Sound documentation, which is in some ways the newest form of archival record.

But the oldest form of documentation is *the raw memory of man,* a capacity to "recollect in tranquillity".

Two concepts are useful in approaching the question of archives in Africa, the concept of documentary deficit and the concept of primordial surplus. Documentary deficit concerns an apparent excess of silence in African historiography, a shortage of recognized documentation in the written and material fields.

Primordial surplus can take a variety of forms. Here I am particularly concerned with a surplus of allegiance to primordial identities, a commitment to ethnicity or religious sectarianism.

The problem of documentation has affected Africa in two very complex ways. One is the crisis of documentary deficit in the material and written remains; the other is the crisis of primordial surplus in the area of raw human memory. The past is strongly with us. Materially, Africa has had relatively few stone monuments, few hard documents of the past. Great Zimbabwe is striking partly because of its very uniqueness.

But the crisis of the documentary deficit also extends to the area of written remains. Among the great cultures of the world, African civilizations have had less written records than average. For a long time this literary deficit resulted in the assumption that Africa was a continent without history.

Did this negative cultural image condemn Africans to centuries of marginality and servitude? Was the slave trade partly a case of cross-cultural images? Was colonialism partly a product of cultural perceptions of racial hierarchy? Did Africa's documentary deficit sentence the continent to the lowest stratum in the ranking order of global privilege?

Why did Europeans pick on Africans to enslave? Why did they not enslave Arabs or south Asians? Partly because the cultural distance between Europeans and Africans was deemed to be particularly wide. It was partly the absence of castles, cathedrals and written contracts in Africa which made the civilizational gap appear so wide.

Africa's crisis of documentary deficit had a good deal to do with the origins of racism. Civilizations were often evaluated in terms of either concrete remains or written ▶

In Africa the cultural heritage is largely sustained by the oral tradition, which Unesco has systematically studied and encouraged in many ways. In Mali, in 1983, the Organization launched a pilot rural "audiotheque" experiment with several original features. The communities concerned are given copies of the recordings they make as well as equipment enabling them to listen in and make other recordings whenever they wish. Left, villagers of Mana listen to a recording.

Photo © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

Mansa Musa (prob. d. 1332), one of the most prestigious rulers of the Mali Empire, is depicted in this detail from a map of Africa by Johanes Viladestes (1428). The map is one of a number of important early modern maps produced at Majorca in the 14th and 15th centuries.

▶ records. Most of Black Africa seemed to have neither.

The crisis of documentary deficit had related implications for science and philosophy. The absence of the written word deprived much of Africa of the bounty of cumulative heresy. Africa's oral tradition was a tradition which tended to transmit consensus rather than dissent, what was agreed upon rather than what was rejected by the establishment.

Where were Africa's Platos and Lockes, Rousseaus and Lenins? Most of them lie in the graveyard of consensus, in the cemetery of the oral tradition. Brilliant Africans failed to surface above village life, genius was too steeped in the oral non-literate legacy of rural Africa.

Who would ever have heard of Karl Marx in the twentieth century if he had operated in a completely oral tradition in nineteenth-century Europe? The written word was needed to preserve Karl Marx's heresies in his own formulation.

But while the oral tradition is an illustration of documentary deficit in material and written remains, it may also illustrate the *dynamism of raw human memory* in Africa.

The question which arises in the twentieth century is whether that raw human memory is a case of *surplus primordial documentation!* Is there too much raw documentation? Are ordinary Africans remembering too much of their origins and their past? Is the past too present among us? Is the present refusing to be transient and temporary?

In the second half of the twentieth century the most obstinate aspect of primordial surplus is the resilience of ethnic identity. The great majority of Africans refuse to forget their primordial origins, be they Baganda or Acholi, Luo or Kikuyu, Shona or Ndebele, Hausa, Yoruba or Ibo. The resilience of ethnic identity is a resilience of documentation at the level of raw human memory, for better or for worse. Ethnicity is an archive, stacked with documents of the annals of the "tribe", the records of community, the memory of collective identity.

This situation has had repercussions in the post-colonial period. Surplus ethnic identity has outweighed deficit class consciousness in Africa. A Hausa peasant is a Hausa first and a peasant second when the political chips are down.

Deficit class consciousness in Africa was compounded by deficit literary documentation. Why is it that it is a socio-linguistic impossibility for an African to be a sophisticated Marxist without being at the same time highly Westernized? One cannot be a sophisticated Marxist without exposure to the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and other ideological founding fathers. But these works are not available in African indigenous languages ("vernaculars"). Access to sophisticated Marxism must therefore be through a sophisticated command of a European language. A non-Westernized African Marxist is for the time being a contradiction in terms.

In the origins of European socialism, history was used as evidence *against* the past. That is what Marx and Engels meant by viewing all events as an agony of class struggle. In contrast, some African socialists have tended to view history as evidence *in favour* of the past. Tradition has been seen as primordial collectivism, concern for the disadvantaged and universal hospitality.

European use of written archives resulted in a view of socialism as an *interruption*, sometimes as a drastic revolution, designed as a fundamental departure from the past. On the other hand, African socialism in some countries has emerged as a doctrine of continuity, a link with ancient life-styles.

While European socialism has proclaimed a negation of the European past, African socialism has often proclaimed a reaffirmation of African ancestors. While Karl Marx at the British Museum was using archives as allies in social revolution, African socialists later looked for archives to vindicate cultural revivalism.

Zimbabwe: history on tape

IN rural Zimbabwe as in other African countries where the oral tradition is strong, when meetings are held to settle succession disputes and the affairs of the community, the successful claimants are often those who support their case with the fullest genealogical and historical details. In recent years such gatherings have attracted, in addition to those directly concerned with their outcome, observer-historians from the National Archives of Zimbabwe, which since 1977 has been carrying out a wide-ranging project for recording and preserving the country's oral history and traditions. The meetings not only often provide a gold mine of information in themselves; they also put the historians who attend them on the track of prospective informants who can be interviewed later on.

The reasoning behind the Oral History Programme is that the oral traditions of pre-literate people serve the same purposes as archives and museums in literate societies. The task of preserving this material is all the more urgent since accelerating modernization is sweeping away traditional history and lore and many valuable reminiscences will be lost forever if they are not recorded by the present generation. The Zimbabwe programme is being carried out in the country's three major languages, Shona, Ndebele and English. Historians tape free-ranging interviews in these languages with informants located in a variety of ways, including publicity given to the programme by the radio and the local press. The interviews are then transcribed, translated and edited by the historians before being catalogued and indexed by the librarian who makes the information available to the public. In this way a data bank of material has been assembled, ranging from genealogies, narratives, parables, stories, myths and legends, to songs, poems and ritual dialogue. ■

But it is not just ideology and philosophy which pose questions about continuity and change. *Science* also needs a built-in principle of instability—a readiness to be challenged by heresy.

African science and technology were too stable. Major paradigm shifts were too rare. When it is too stable, science becomes stagnant. But was not African science unstable in another sense? Since it was taught through the oral tradition, was it not subject to variation from mouth to mouth? The answer is yes. Science passed through word of mouth is vulnerable; but this is the instability of imprecision rather than the instability of careful revision.

Those African languages which were not written were also unstable. They changed too fast. It is harder to understand a nineteenth-century African poem even in Kiswahili than to understand a nineteenth-century English poem. Many Africans are more eager to learn the imperial European languages than to protect indigenous languages. Linguistic patriotism is weak partly because of the weakness of the archival tradition.

What then is the new archival order for Africa? In his *Ode on Intimations of Immortality* the English poet William Wordsworth talked about the child being father to the man. In the West the national archive was the child of the archival tradition. The national archive was a consequence of a pre-existent cultural preoccupation with record-keeping. In Africa the national archive may have to father the archival tradition or at least help that tradition become strong.

More than dusty documents are at stake. We must stop believing that the present is not temporary, that the past is still with us even if we do nothing to preserve its records. We must learn to keep accounts, record births, marriages and deaths, keep picture albums, and protect contracts.

Perhaps above all, we need not only to respect intellectual heresies, but also to create a climate where they do not perish into unrecorded oblivion. A new archival order in Africa could help change the continent fundamentally. And a world with a fundamentally different Africa cannot but be a fundamentally different world. ■

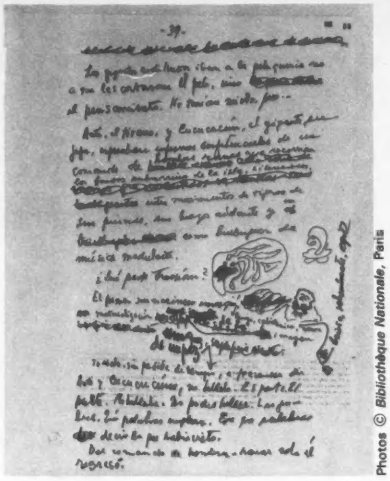
Photo © The Jamaica Memory Bank, Kingston

In 1981 the Jamaican Government took steps to create a Cultural Heritage "Memory Bank" dedicated to the documentation and preservation of traditional forms of culture such as dances and rituals, and the experiences and knowledge possessed by many elderly persons. In 1982 the project received the support of Unesco's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture. Above, a farmer (right) explains how cassava is cultivated. Beside him sits the Memory Bank interviewer with three other farmers listening intently.

The episcopal conference of Chile, with the aid of Unesco's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, is engaged on a programme designed to collect, record and publish traditional peasant songs and to hold festivals at which these songs are performed, thereby preserving one of the oldest forms of popular literature in Latin America. Below, the Chilean singer Manuel Gallardo.

Photo © Conferencia Episcopal de Chile, San Bernardo

ALI MAZRUI, *of Kenya, is Research Professor at the University of Jos in Nigeria and Professor of Political Science and of Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is the author of* A World Federation of Cultures: An African Perspective *(1976),* Africa's International Relations *(1977) and* Political Values and the Educated Class in Africa *(1978). The present text has been extracted from a paper presented by Prof. Mazrui at the Seventh Biennial Conference and Seminar of the East and Central African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1982.*



Photos © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

Far left, an anonymous caricature of the Guatemalan novelist and poet Miguel Angel Asturias, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1967. Left, a manuscript page of* El Arbol de la Cruz *("The Tree of the Cross"), an unfinished and unpublished text by Asturias who donated it with his other manuscripts to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, to be used in establishing an international critical edition of his complete works. So far five titles have been published in the Asturias collection which is supported by Unesco's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture.

SOME twelve years ago, the Guatemalan writer Miguel Angel Asturias (1899 to 1974) donated his manuscripts and archives to the French* Bibliothèque Nationale *with the twofold purpose of ensuring the physical preservation of his writings and making possible the establishment of an international critical edition of his complete works. Under the aegis of the* Association of the Friends of Miguel Angel Asturias, *whose secretary-general is the Italian literary specialist Amos Segala and whose international scientific council is headed by Léopold Sédar Senghor, several volumes of this critical edition have already appeared.

***With this experience behind them, the Association and its French and international partners have enlarged the scope of this initiative by establishing a new project, the* Archives de la Littérature Latino-Américaine, des Caraïbes et Africaine du XX[e] Siècle.

The objective of this international project is to ensure the preservation and dissemination of manuscripts of contemporary authors of Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. A number of scientific institutions are collaborating in the project, including the French* Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, *the Italian* Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerce, *the Spanish* Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Scientificas, *the Portuguese* Instituto Nacional de Investigacão Cientifica *and the National Libraries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Just as with the manuscripts donated by Asturias to the French* Bibliothèque Nationale, *the manuscripts of Latin American, Caribbean and African authors will be systematically catalogued before being preserved and microfilmed. Students and researchers will have access to these document collections which will be as exhaustive as possible. In addition, a team of specialists drawn from both the regional and international scientific communities will be entrusted with the task of establishing a new international collection of critical editions of major works from all the countries of each of the regions concerned. The collection will thus contribute to an adjustment of the balance of critical assessment of the literary history of these regions during the twentieth century and to a wider and more accurate understanding of their literature.

From the start, this unprecedented, multilateral co-operative undertaking, encompassing three continents, received support from Unesco and, in particular, from the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture. It forms part of the wider movement for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of mankind, laying emphasis on that vital but none the less vulnerable part of it, the manuscripts of modern authors, as defined at the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT) which was held in Mexico in 1982 and which is one of the major preoccupations of Unesco. Furthermore, the* Archives de la Littérature Latino-Américaine, des Caraïbes et Africaine, *together with the* Association of the Friends of Miguel Angel Asturias, *constitute a Non-Governmental Organization with official consultative status* vis-à-vis *Unesco.

The signing in Buenos Aires, in September 1984, of the* Archives Agreement *by four Latin American countries and four Latin countries of Europe marked the birth of the collection* Archives de la Littérature Latino-Américaine du XX[e] Siècle. ***We publish below extracts from a speech made on the occasion of the signing by Léopold Sédar Senghor, one of the most active promoters of this new "dialogue between cultures".

Photo © Mercedes Iturbe, Mexico City

The Alejo Carpentier Cultural Promotion Centre, inaugurated in Havana in 1982, has its headquarters in the house, left, which provided the famous writer with inspiration for the setting of his novel* El Siglo de las Luces *(published in English under the title* Explosion in a Cathedral*). The Centre, which promotes Carpentier's work and contemporary Cuban literature and music in general, seeks to carry out cultural exchanges with similar institutions in other countries.

The 'Archives Agreement'

A modern approach to literary conservation and research

by Léopold Sédar Senghor

IT must be confessed that to bring together eight countries—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain—in a long-term programme such as the *Archives Agreement* is a very considerable achievement.

Yet this alliance in a common cause was no chance occurrence. At the Mondiacult Conference of 1982, judging by the welcome received by the proposals I made there on this subject, a movement was born, a unanimous will to save from perdition, from the flames of a second Alexandria, the word that tells us and future generations the meaning and purpose of our existence.

All at once, in this world of sound and fury, the word of the poet seemed alone and defenceless against the ravages of time and human malevolence.

The purpose of the *Archives* programme is, first, to safeguard a hitherto neglected part of our cultural heritage—the manuscripts of contemporary authors—and then to research them and to publish critical editions. It inaugurates new forms of scientific co-operation and cultural solidarity which, I am sure, will create a precedent that other regions of the world will take as an example and adapt to meet their own specific requirements. The *Archives Agreement* comes at a critical moment, at a time when it is the general opinion that the revival of letters in our region is being spearheaded by the poetry and narrative prose of Latin America and the Caribbean, which has its roots deep in the collective imagination of our peoples.

Today is born a great literary collection, since it consists of over a hundred titles, from twenty-two countries of the region and in the four main languages spoken there. The key aspect, however, is that these texts will be treated with the consideration until now reserved for the great Latin and Greek classics. You will allow me, as a man of letters myself, to say how much I rejoice in this new respect accorded to our own writings, a respect which will be ensured by both the geographic and the disciplinary diversity of the groups of researchers (over five hundred specialists will be involved) associated with this initiative.

Unaccustomed as they have always been to working together, and consequently to knowing and appreciating one another, despite a language, a history and a *Weltanschauung* which ought to bring them closer together rather than separate them, the Latin American countries are now embarking, for a significant span of time, upon a series of exchanges, a sharing of literary experiences and of cultural messages which will be so many factors of integration, of real rapprochement, less spectacular perhaps than the declarations of politicians, but far more significant and effective.

Another aspect of the *Archives Agreement* which seems to me to be of capital importance is the participation of the four Latin countries of Europe which, for reasons of consanguinity or history, are deeply and irreversibly bound to Latin America. Just as the Latin American countries involved have, as it were, rejected their traditional nationalism in favour of a global, unifying vision of history and culture, so the Latin countries of Europe are collaborating in an act of solidarity towards a region with regard to which each of them had formulated individual policies and jealously maintained agreements, both covert and overt, often obtained at the expense of their neighbours.

Under the *Agreement,* the Latin countries of Europe are pledged to help each country of the region, by its own efforts, to rise above that level of communication, both internal and external, below which it would be severely handicapped and prevented from taking its rightful place as a full member of the cultural community to which it belongs.

The *Archives Agreement* means profound and practical innovation both in Latin America and in the Latin countries of Europe as well as in the interrelationships between them. As proof of this may I cite Portugal's proposal to adopt the methodology and structures of the *Archives* collection in launching a collection of authors from the four Latin countries of Europe concerned. This proposal brings a new equilibrium and a new and important dimension to the scope of the cultural dialogue envisaged. Since the proposal involves Fernando Pessoa, the greatest Portuguese poet of the twentieth century, it confirms the will and the opportunity of making the *Archives Agreement* the favoured instrument of a real cultural exchange across the Atlantic.

Going further still, the delegates of the eight countries party to the *Archives Agreement,* at my suggestion, are appealing for a suitable technical and juridical instrument to be placed before the twenty-third General Conference of Unesco in which all aspects of the safeguard of and access to authors' manuscripts as well as of their reproduction on microfilm and the publication of critical editions would be covered at national, regional and international levels. The fact that a document similar to that which we propose, but which was concerned with moving images, was adopted at the General Conference of Unesco held in Belgrade, in 1981, gives grounds for hope that a satisfactory solution will be found for the written word, as yet unprotected or assured of free communication by any convention.

It is high time, before the bulk of these riches is lost to us, for an international debate to be engaged which would lay down the broad outlines of an objective policy of preservation and exchange. ■

Unesco's library and archives

ORGANIZATIONS like Unesco need a library "to give access to knowledge" and to furnish the printed information necessary for the personnel in their work. In fact, the Unesco central Library is the focal point of a house-wide network of sectoral documentation centres which together serve the programme specialists and the secretariat units.

With 100,000 volumes kept up to date and 2,200 serials, including periodicals, the Library is in a position to answer any questions that may arise in the course of the work of Unesco. Under certain conditions the Library is also open to outside researchers.

The Library, however, is not merely a collection of books; it is also a cataloguing and indexing unit for Unesco's own documents and publications. The best and most detailed source of information on what Unesco issues is to be found in the *Unesco List of Documents and Publications*, a printed and computerized reference tool available in main libraries and documentation centres throughout the world and accessible on-line at Unesco headquarters. The data base now contains about 60,000 document references available for consultation in paper form and also on microfiches produced by the Unesco Microfiche Service. A Systems Development Section maintains and develops the computer software necessary for indexing. This programme, called Isis, is also available to Member States free of charge.

The Library is an organized collection of books, while the Archives incorporate all the records created or received by the Organization in the course of its activities. Unesco's archival documents are the natural and unavoidable result of its work. They comprise files, letters, memos, speeches, working and meeting documents, budgets, plans, programmes, agreements, photographs, tapes, etc., all reflecting faithfully the action taken in the execution of the Organization's programme. Unesco's archival documents are open, according to the established rules, to researchers and students and all other interested persons can consult Unesco's published documents in the Archives reading room. ■

The services described above are the responsibility of the Unesco Library, Archives and Documentation Services, Programme Support Sector.

Colour pages

Opposite page

The first* Surah *(section) from a two-volume Qur'an preserved in the Egyptian National Library, Cairo, whose current holdings total 1.5 million volumes and include one of the world's finest collections of Arabic manuscripts.

Photo © Martin Lings/World of Islam Festival Trust

Centre pages

Left: An illuminated page from the 12th-century Latin "Bible of the Pantheon", one of the treasures of the Vatican Library. It depicts four Old Testament scenes: (from top to bottom) the journey of Jacob and his family to Egypt; Moses and the Hebrews constructing the Tabernacle; the Levites carrying the Ark of the Covenant; Moses consecrates his brother Aaron as high priest. The Bible of the Pantheon is exhibited in the Library's Sistine Hall, with a number of other ancient editions of the Bible.

Photo © Vatican Library, Rome

Right: The world-famous library of the former abbey of St. Gallen (Switzerland) contains 100,000 printed books, 2,000 manuscripts and 1,700 incunabula, which provide an almost unrivalled source of information for historians of the Middle Ages. Many of the manuscripts show Celtic influence and are elaborately illuminated. Photo shows a detail from one of the library's treasures, the* Irish Evangelary *(750 AD). The apostle Luke is depicted standing before a throne and holding the Gospels. Above the halo is an ox, St. Luke's symbol.

Photo © Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen, Switzerland

Three Non-Governmental Organizations working in partnership with Unesco

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

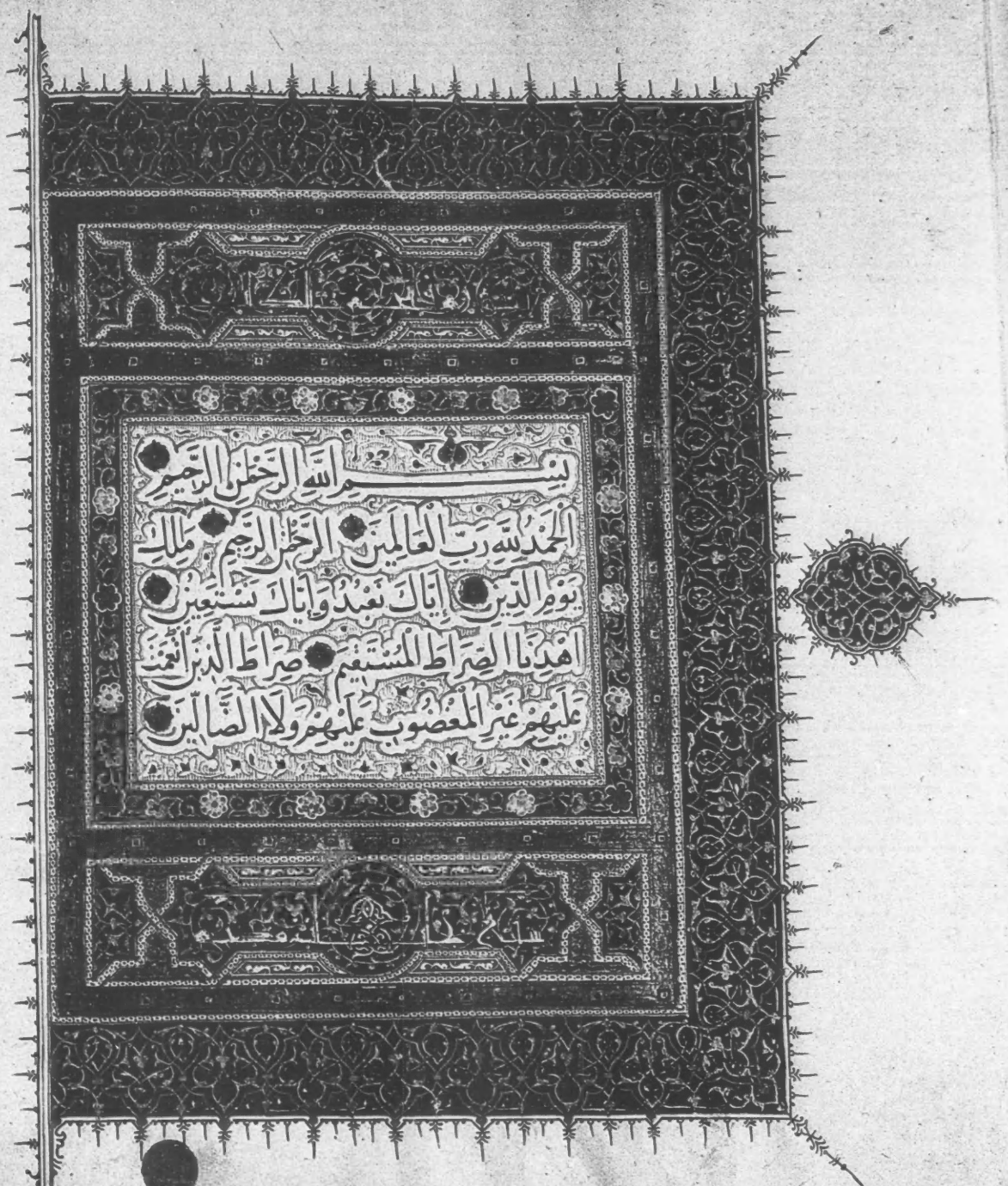
Founded in 1927, the Federation is a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote international discussion, co-operation and research on all aspects of library activities. It collects, collates and publishes information concerning libraries, bibliography and documentation services as well as on professional training.

International Council on Archives (ICA).

The Council is the world professional organization for archives and archivists. Founded in 1948, its main objectives are to promote and encourage the preservation and use of the world's rich archival heritage.

International Federation for Documentation (FID)

Founded in 1895 as the International Institute of Bibliography, the Federation adopted its present name in 1938. Its aims are to promote, through international co-operation, studies and research on and the organization and practice of information science in all fields, including science, technology, the social sciences and the humanities.


بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله رب العالمين الرحمن الرحيم ملك
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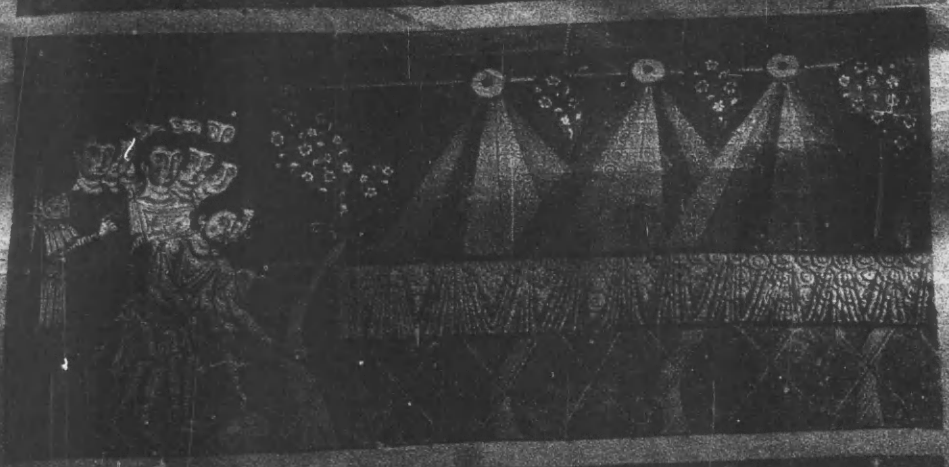


Photo © Vatican Library, Rome

Above, the Sistine Hall of the Vatican Library in Rome.

The riches of the Vatican library

THE Vatican Library was officially founded by Pope Sixtus IV on 15 June 1475 by the Bull *Ad decorem militantis Ecclesiae*. By that date however the papal library already had a long history. It contained collections of ancient manuscripts assembled by earlier Popes following a tradition which began with Damasus in the fourth century and was continued by Boniface VIII (during whose pontificate the first catalogue was produced) and by its first real promoter, the humanist Pope Nicolas V who opened the Library to the public and left at his death over 1,500 manuscripts.

In 1481 the Library possessed 3,500 manuscripts acquired by papal envoys throughout Europe. The contents of other works were recorded for posterity by a throng of copyists. The humanist preoccupations of this period, which were welcomed and encouraged by the Popes, not only included the holy scriptures, patrological and theological works, but also extended to secular texts: philosophy, literature (Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Syriac, Copt and Arabic), law, history, art, architecture and music. The Vatican Library still perpetuates this humanist tradition today.

The heritage constituted by successive Popes has been enriched by the donation, acquisition or deposit of entire libraries. Some of the most important libraries in Europe thus came into the hands of the Vatican Library. Notable among them are the Palatine Library of Heidelberg (1622), the libraries of the dukes of Urbino (1657), of Queen Christina (1690), and of many patrician families, as well as holdings from churches and other Vatican institutions such as the basilica of St. Peter and the Sistine Chapel. The Library also houses a store of archives whose riches are still unexplored.

The holdings of the Vatican Library today total some 70,000 manuscripts, 8,000 early printed books (incunabula), and a million printed works. They also include major collections of prints (over 100,000), maps, handwritten documents (some 200,000), tens of thousands of archive documents, coins and medals, and even art objects of all kinds housed in the oldest part of the Vatican museums, which is under the supervision of the Library.

The Vatican Library has a restoration laboratory and a photographic laboratory. It publishes works and distributes them through its own bookshop. The Library is managed by a prefect (the scientific and administrative director) under the supervision of the Cardinal librarian.

The Library is dedicated exclusively to research and access to it is limited to scholars and specialists. Each day it is used by an average of 120 readers, sometimes as many as 180. ■

Alfonso Marie Stickler
pro-Librarian
of the Holy See

Colour page opposite

Detail from a rare 15th-century Ethiopian illuminated manuscript on parchment preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, shows David playing the lyre. One of the world's oldest libraries, the Bibliothèque Nationale was originally the Royal Library. First opened to the public in 1692, it became State property during the Revolution and was renamed the Bibliothèque Nationale in 1795.

Photo © Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

Left, ornamental letter from a 15th-century "Life of Alexander the Great" produced at Naples for king Alfonso of Aragon and now preserved in the Vatican Library. The profile of the young Alexander is depicted in the medallion. (Another masterpiece in the Library is shown on colour page 20).

Photo © BICE/Vatican Library, Rome

A letter of credit drawn on the past

by Piero Barucci

POLITICAL and cultural institutions, as well as industrial enterprises and banks often feel the need to look back to their origins, perhaps in order to find in their past history the dynamism they need to overcome the difficulties of the present. This may account for the current widespread interest in business archives, which contain documentary evidence of the activities of a business enterprise since its foundation. Such archives can help a business to become aware of roots which although ancient are still important to it.

The Monte dei Paschi bank of Siena is an example of this phenomenon. One of Italy's leading credit establishments and the head of a major financial group of five banks, the Monte dei Paschi has had an eventful history that stretches back for five centuries, and is scrupulously recorded in its archives which cover the period from 1568 to 1872.

Today preserved in the Palazzo della Roca Salimbeni in Siena, right next door to the headquarters of the bank, this major deposit occupies over 330 metres of shelf space. Also exhibited in the great salon of the Palazzo are precious objects connected with the life of the bank, ranging from seals (the oldest dating back to the 16th century), letters of credit some of which were drawn up in the 17th century, and old letters of exchange. Most of the post-1872 documents are preserved in other premises of the bank.

Strangely enough, any account of the Monte dei Paschi archives must begin with documents which are preserved elsewhere, not because they have been scattered or destroyed, but because of the special circumstances attending the bank's creation. Founded in 1472 on the initiative of the Free Republic of Siena, it was considered initially as an institution of the State, and its activities were strictly regulated. Consequently bank documents dating from the period of Siena's political autonomy until 1555 were treated on a par with official municipal documents and later deposited with them in the local public record office. The public nature of the bank when it was founded and during the early years of its activity was confirmed when Siena lost its independence, and the Medicis of Florence recognized the bank's special status. Since then the bank has been closely involved in the country's social and economic life.

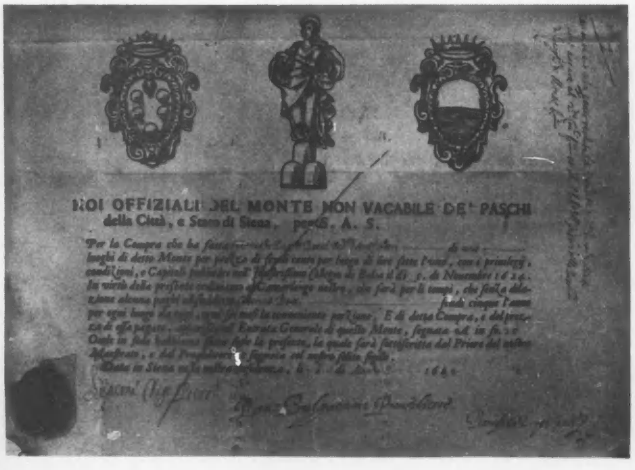
The activities of the period following the reform in status of 1568, whereby the bank obtained administrative autonomy, are fully recorded in the documents preserved in its archives which run without a break from 1568 to the present and were enriched with the addition to the bank of a savings bank, founded in 1833, and a building finance house.

With the unification of Italy, one result of which was to extend the bank's field of activity, a process of internal and external reorganization began. After the deposit of its statutes in 1872, its structure was modified and it was divided into several autonomous enterprises.

Today the historic archives of the Monte dei Paschi have become an important institution devoted to organizing a mass of documentary material which is of inestimable value as a source of information for scholarly research into Italian economic history and whose quantity and diversity are constantly growing. ■

PIERO BARUCCI, *of Italy, has been president of the Monte dei Paschi bank and finance house, Siena, since 1983. He formerly taught economics at the universities of Siena and Florence. A member of the American Economic Association and the Royal Economic Association of the UK, he is the author of many published works on economic questions.*

Two ancient documents conserved in the historical archives of Monte dei Paschi, Siena, Italy. Left, a typical bank credit note, issued in 1624. Right, the first known example (1646) of a printed letter of credit.



Photos © Grassi, Editalia, Siena

Photos © Museum and Regional Archive of Castelli, Argentina

Grassroots of the pampas

by Cesar A. Garcia Belsunce

"IT was the first time a dentist had come to the village, and I was his first patient. There were no facilities for anaesthetics in the village then. I was ten years old and they put me in a chair opposite a hanging skeleton. The skull seemed to be smiling, and I smiled back at it. Then the lady who was helping the dentist said to me, 'So that you won't be frightened, I'll play the guitar for you while the doctor is working.'" Seventy-five years later the heroine of this adventure was reminiscing into a tape-recorder and describing what may have been the first appearance of dentistry and music therapy in Castelli, a village in the wet pampa of Argentina, where a regional museum and archive have recently been created.

This region, which bordered on Indian territory until 1820, was inhabited by native-born Argentinians and immigrants, mostly Italians and Basques, who have always had a strong sense of their past and have withstood the impact of the modern world with greater firmness than other peoples in the region. As a consequence, the area was chosen by the Latin-American Archives Association for a pilot project on the collection of data relating to its social history. The idea was to collect systematically all existing documentation in private hands, such as letters, account-books, school exercise books, photos, and films, as well as the kind of eyewitness account quoted above.

The National University of La Plata has also launched an archaeological research project in the same district and taken steps to create a museum there, based on the certainty that many traces of more or less sedentary indigenous populations must survive in this region rich in lagoons. In addition to archaeological specimens, the museum will collect and display objects relating to the farming and stock-breeding civilization which developed in the area following its occupation by populations of European origin, as well as examples of animal and plant life in the local environment.

Photographs, post-cards, letters, oral testimony, all these are grist to the mill of the Museum and Regional Archive of Castelli, Argentina, in its effort to create a documentary record of the life of the region. In these two photos, now in the archives, can be seen (above left) a local family, photographed in 1905, and (above right) a view of the village of Castelli at the beginning of the century.

The execution of these projects, which were launched simultaneously in the middle of 1983, was immediately co-ordinated, although each retains its distinctive nature. This co-ordination led to the creation on 8 August 1984 of the Castelli Regional Museum and Archive. It is not yet open to the public, but an inaugural exhibition has already been held there with marked success.

The written documents that have been assembled provide interesting evidence about the organization of social life at the beginning of the century, and about such matters as the cost of living and the way in which contracts were drawn up. A mass of photos vividly illustrate changing customs and ways of living, notably the change from traditional to modern dress, the evolution of housing from humble cottages to opulent *estancias* inspired by the manors and villas of Europe, the floods which periodically hit the region, and rural activities as they were before the mechanization of agriculture.

Even more interesting are the eyewitness oral histories. Old villagers have been interviewed and have told racy anecdotes about the paternalistic relationship between the land-owners and their "peons", and about the political rivalry between radicals and conservatives: "A long time ago, in the 1920s," said one, "the different parties were always accusing each other of electoral fraud. And so one day it was decided that elections would be strictly supervised and from then on the irregularities stopped. But the ballot-boxes had to be taken by train to the town of Dolores for the votes to be counted and once, when the train was winding its way along the banks of the lagoon of Sevigné those who thought they had lost the election threw the boxes into the water."

Both projects have been organized to encourage the active participation of the villagers. Volunteers are given instruction by professional archivists, museologists and archaeologists and when they have been trained they are sent out to do fieldwork. In Castelli today young people can be seen going from house to house in search of documents and museum objects, while other volunteers excavate on the banks of the Rio Salado. ■

CESAR A. GARCIA BELSUNCE, *of Argentina, is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Council on Archives and chairman of the Latin-American Archives Association. A former director of his country's General Archives, he is the author of many published works on archival and historical themes. He is in charge of the project to collect social history documents which has given rise to the museum and archives centre described in this article.*

The computer revolution in research libraries

by Richard Dougherty

THE research library in the United States today is more than simply a vast reservoir of traditional books, journals and microforms; its role has expanded and been enhanced to support faculty and students in obtaining and utilizing information resources. Furthermore, in order to cope with the physical growth of collections due to the vast increase in the number of publications, libraries on many college campuses have been dispersed and a network of library outlets created. Staff of the premier research libraries often number several hundred and the functions they perform are vastly different from those carried out by their predecessors.

The impact of computer technology on United States research libraries over the past decade has been little short of spectacular. In the past ten to fifteen years there has been a gradual evolution of the configuration, power and functions of these systems. Ushered in by the appearance of the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC) computer network, the new technical capabilities enabled libraries to share a common data base in support of cataloguing operations. Without question the OCLC system revolutionized the work of technical services divisions of large libraries. OCLC grew rapidly throughout the 1970s until it now serves over 2,000 public, academic and special libraries and the computer support system supports in excess of 6,000 terminals.

A similar system developed by the Research Libraries Group, called the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN), was designed specifically to support the programmes of research libraries. Although the technology underlying OCLC and RLIN are fundamentally different, both systems are nationwide in scope and are configured in a manner network experts frequently refer to as "star networks", that is, with a centralized computer system which is linked to distant libraries via telecommunications.

In addition to such networks as OCLC and RLIN, individual libraries such as those of Northwestern University, Stanford University and the University of Chicago, have developed local on-line technical support systems (for example, systems to handle book purchasing, accounting, serials check-in, on-line cataloguing, etc). In the late 1970s, commercial vendors also began to make available "turn-key" systems designed to support single operations such as circulation and acquisitions.

Currently the provision of on-line catalogues to replace the venerable card catalogue is receiving the highest priority in most university libraries. Studies that have already been conducted by the Council on Library Resources, Inc. reflect how much more powerful the new catalogues are and every indication is that they will be enthusiastically accepted by the next generation of library users.

In the next few years it will become common for libraries to operate integrated library systems which will tie together all the traditional library support activities into a single computer system. An integrated library system will support the basic functions of circulation, acquisitions, accounting, cataloguing of all materials, all aspects of serials work, binding and inter-library lending.

Perhaps more importantly these library systems will be tied into campus networks so that users will be able to access the catalogues of neighbouring libraries.

At present there is a nationally-funded effort to link together the computers of the Library of Congress, the Research Libraries Group, OCLC and the Washington Library Network (a regional network which serves the libraries of the north Pacific in the same manner as the systems of OCLC and the Research Libraries Group support their members). When this Linked Systems Project is completed, it will become possible for the major bibliographic utilities on the North American continent to share records among themselves and with the Library of Congress.

Another major preoccupation of United States librarians today is the physical preservation of their collections. As P.N. Banks, a noted expert on paper preservation, warned in 1978, "it is safe to say that the library environment is essentially hostile to all forms of recorded materials". But the severity of the problem did not gain general recognition among research librarians until the late 1970s. Even though preservation experts had been issuing warnings for many years, most library administrators were under such extreme pressure to find ways to increase inter-library lending and to automate library operations that they had little time to attend to the longer-term danger of collection deterioration.

During the early 1980s the situation changed rapidly and library staffs began to look carefully at the condition of their collections. A survey conducted at the Univer-

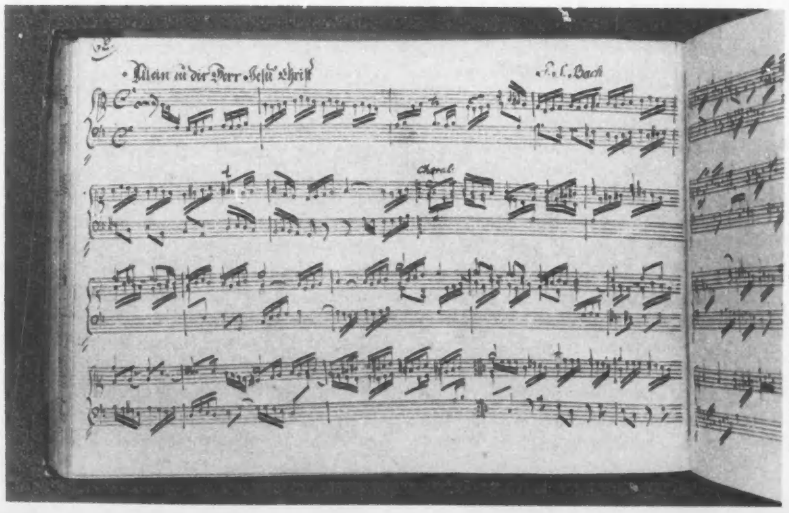



Photo T. Charles Erickson © Yale University Office of Public Information, New Haven, Connecticut

Right, the opening bars of one of thirty-three hitherto unknown organ chorales by Johann Sebastian Bach found last year in the Yale University Library. The works, which were contained in a volume of manuscripts donated to Yale in 1873, were identified by Bach scholar and Professor of Music Christoph J. Wolff, while he was working with the Yale Library on the preparation of a new Bach compendium.

sity of Michigan determined that, based on 1978 costs, expenditure in excess of forty million dollars would be required to preserve and to conserve all the volumes that would require attention between 1978 and the end of the century. The results reported by the University of Michigan were typical of reports issued by other large research libraries.

The financial dimensions of the preservation problem are so staggering that most universities will not be able to raise the funds necessary to solve local problems. Co-operative programmes, such as the Research Library Group's microfilming project, offer one of the few viable solutions, allowing libraries to work together and to avoid unnecessary duplication of microfilming activity. In the final analysis, if the content of American libraries is to survive for the use of future generations, it will probably require the assistance of private foundations and the intervention of Federal programmes to augment the resources made available by individual universities.

The rapid growth in size and programmes of research libraries has also brought about great changes in the duties and responsibilities of professional librarians. Faculty staff have played a less active role in the development of library collections and this work has been turned over to library bibliographers and collection development experts.

While the appearance of new technology has created new opportunities for libraries, the rapid changes caused by technology have also caused a great deal of organizational stress. Librarians are caught between the opportunities afforded by technology and the considerable strain of acquiring new skills and developing new programmes.

Technology has enabled librarians to play a more central role in providing faculty and students with publications, information and data derived from bibliographic and non-bibliographic data bases. In large part librarians have been successful because in recent years the profession has placed a strong emphasis on preparing them to work in an increasingly technological environment. The major question facing academic librarianship is what roles the librarian will play in the years ahead.

American research libraries will embrace new technology as it becomes available. For example, libraries are already considering how best to use the new video and optical disc technologies. These new storage systems linked to microcomputers will provide opportunities to store vast amounts of printed matter in the form of analog images or as digitized data. The work at the Library of Congress utilizing optical disc technology suggests that this storage media might very well solve the current preservation crisis.

Librarians have been eminently successful in assisting students and researchers in the use of data bases to obtain information about the location of books and journals. But our ability to deliver documents has not kept pace with the improvements in providing bibliographic access. Thus future emphasis on improvements in document delivery systems seems quite important.

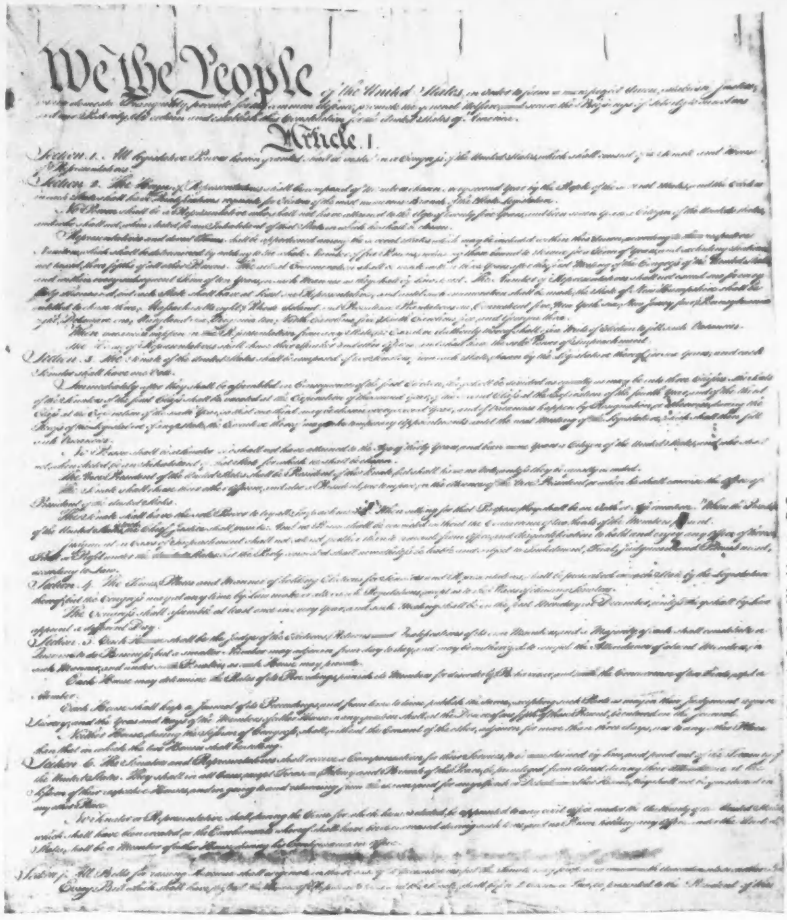


Photo © National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Above, the first of the four parchment pages of the Constitution of the United States, signed on September 17, 1787. It came into force as part of the "supreme law of the land" on June 21, 1788 when New Hampshire became the ninth State to ratify it. The first three words were highly significant, since under the Constitution the source of power became "We the People". It is the oldest written document of its kind in the world.

One of the most important developments will be the growing interdependence between libraries and campus computer centres. These two campus support systems have operated as independent organizations, but as libraries become increasingly dependent upon technology and computer centres become more involved with the delivery of information the need for these two organizations to work more closely together becomes more evident. Although it is too early to say what changes are likely to take place, it is possible that this growing relationship will require changes in the way libraries and computer centres are organized within the university governance system.

Writers such as Patricia Battin have described a possible integration of these two campus organizations. She foresees that such an integration of library and computing agency, "each with its specific strengths and expertise, will provide one-stop shopping for the university community as well as stabilizing planning mechanisms for effective and flexible response to rapidly changing technologies". Other writers foresee a greater involvement in public policy as the scope of problems such as budgets, the need to capitalize expensive information services and the problem of preservation require institutional response in the context of public policy.

In the longer term, those who formulate public policy may come to realize that the research libraries of universities comprise a cohesive national resource rather than a series of individual collections. The technology necessary to link together the libraries of the nation is rapidly becoming available and affordable so that the changing attitudes of legislators and government officials toward the role of research libraries could become a major development during the next generation. ■

RICHARD M. DOUGHERTY, *of the USA, is director of the university library and professor of library science at the University of Michigan. He is a member of the board of governors of the Research Libraries Group. He has edited a number of journals and is the author of several books, notably* Scientific Management of Library Operations.

History off the record

The archives of a teaching age

Emblem of International Youth Year

Photo © United Nations

by Eckhardt Franz

KILLINGWORTH Middle School, in the English county of Northumberland. Twelve-year-olds are studying history—not the broad sweep of history as found in the traditional textbook, but history as it happened where they actually live.

In a farmhouse on the Middleton Hall estate they find the date 1811 carved over the door. By consulting old land maps they learn what the countryside looked like when the house was built and that it took its name from another house, now in ruins, that stood farther up the hill.

The name of the first occupant of the house is recorded in the county archives. Here also is to be found the contract of employment of shepherd Robert Burn, which lists his duties and specifies that he is to be paid in oats, barley and wheat and the yield of a row of potatoes and grass for two cows and sixty sheep.

The children's teacher discovered other things too—the building plans for the manor house, showing the dining and living rooms, bedrooms and a study, the farm accounts in which the life style and farming methods of the past come to life far more vividly than in the readymade textbook presentation which makes the eighteenth century seem as remote and impersonal as the sagas of classical antiquity.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, at the suggestion of former President Gustav Heinemann, an annual competition has been held for the past ten years for schoolchildren who, in their own neighbourhood, in the local library, the local archives, among their friends and acquaintances, search for traces of the history of, for example, the 1848-49 revolution, life under the oppressive National Socialist régime and the new start after 1945.

Three seventeen-year-olds in Darmstadt have researched a national democratic festival held in the summer of 1848 and have made a comparative study of leaflets and posters, newspaper reports and police records. A detective-like reconstruction of past events from frequently contradictory sources also provoked critical reflections on contemporary journalism. Pupils in Kelsterbach-am-Main are investigating the employment of prisoners of war and forced labour in local factories. They are discovering tombstones, old photographs, newspaper reports, lists of names and court records. These speak more eloquently than all the figures of anonymous millions in history textbooks.

Schoolboy or schoolgirl in the archive, archivist in the school—this does not quite tally with the conventional image of the archive as the silent, cloister-like haunt of ▶

Photo © Archives Départementales du Val de Marne, Creteil, France

Children at work making paving-stones in a quarry near Paris. This illustration, from the* Journal Illustré, *dated October 15, 1871, was displayed in a mobile exhibition on "Working Children of the 19th Century", organized in 1984 by the Departmental Archives of the Val de Marne.

Photo © National Archives of Sri Lanka, Colombo

During the period of their occupation of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), the Dutch issued many instructions to local officials. The one reproduced here is written in Sinhala and is dated 1738. The National Archive of Sri Lanka has a considerable collection of these documents, dating from 1641 to 1795, which throw much light on administrative, economic and social conditions of the period.

SUPPLEMENT GLEANER, 8TH DEC., 1890.

THE GLEANER,

And Weekly

COMPENDIUM OF NEWS.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JACOB DECORDOVA. | EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON WATER LANE.

Vol. 1 Saturday Afternoon, September 13th, 1834. No. 1.

TO BE PUBLISHED

THE KINGSTON GLEANER,

Weekly Compendium of News.

The Reconciliation.

Photo © Department of Library Studies, University of the West Indies, Kingston

The first issue of The Gleaner, *a replica of which we reproduce, right, was published in September 1834 a few weeks after the abolition of slavery. The replica of this first issue was published as a supplement to the December 8, 1890 issue of* The Gleaner, *now a daily, and Jamaica's oldest newspaper.*

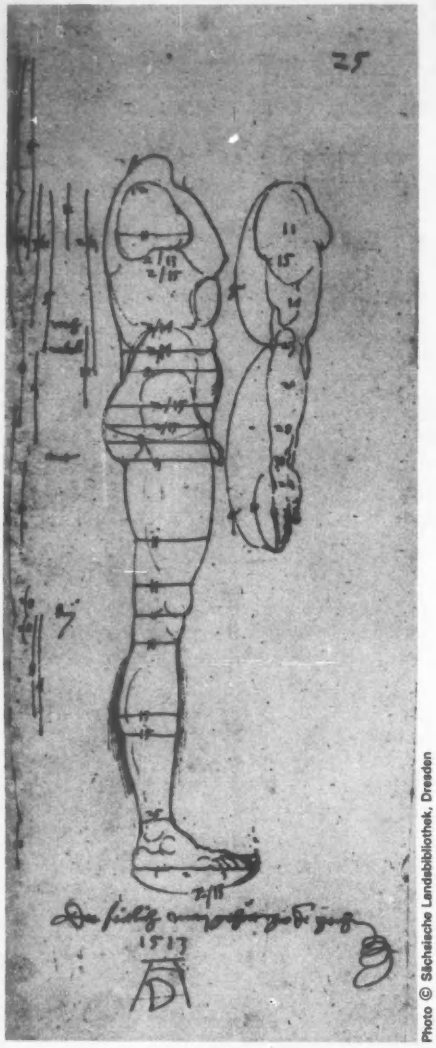


Photo © Sächsische Landabibliothek, Dresden

This study of the proportions of the human body is the work of the German artist Albert Dürer (1471-1528). The drawing, which was made in 1513, is from a collection of Dürer sketches now conserved at Dresden.

▶ scholars in which elderly researchers, waited upon by dusty, attentive archivists, turn over the pages of ancient folio volumes, only occasionally disturbed by some cheeky student preparing a doctorate in history. The changed professional image of today's archivist, who not only takes good care of the documentary heritage entrusted to him but tries to use it actively for the political and historical education of a wider public and of the younger generation, coincides with a new trend in historical research and the teaching of history.

Like other school subjects, history must no longer be taught in classroom lectures dealing in broad contexts and supported by recitals of large quantities of facts and figures. It must be learned by independent personal effort. The sources thus consulted gain in clarity and vividness if they originate in familiar surroundings and relate to the student's own region or even his or her place of residence. This is facilitated by the increased attention now being paid to economic and social history.

Exhibitions of documents from archives and school visits to archives were, of course, organized in the past. But the traditional school visit, with a short introduction to the life, duties and working methods of the archivist, a tour of the archives and a presentation of selected documents, was merely a last optional item, coming after visits to the local newspaper office or sugar factory.

Nowadays, classes or study groups of schoolchildren come to the archives to work, under the direction of teachers and archivists, with documents relating to the historical theme they are studying in class, so that through their personal frequentation of the archives they can acquire a concrete perception of the past and its documentary sediments, a glimpse into the world of historical research and an awareness of the need for a critical approach to historical sources.

A display of a limited number of documents centred on a particular subject of study in class, in whose selection attention is paid to their informative value, meets educational purposes much better than a magnificent exhibition of the precious, original and visually attractive documents from an archive, or a large-scale representative display which impresses and overwhelms by its richness and variety.

Experience in recent years has shown that not only senior secondary school students but also younger children, especially those in the twelve-to-fifteen-year group, acquire an added interest in history while working on source documents. In England even eight- to ten-year-old children in domestic science classes in primary schools have been known to work with archive documents.

Not all schoolchildren can visit an archive. Not every town possesses an archive that is under expert supervision and many of the smaller ones lack adequate space to work in. But archives now go out to the public. For more than ten years the Hesse State Archives have been holding travelling exhibitions devoted to various aspects of the region's history. Exhibitions on, for example, "Industrialization in Hesse" and "Emigration from Hesse" have made two-year tours visiting between twenty and thirty towns in the State and exhibiting not only in public records offices and museums but also in town halls, savings banks and schools. Many teachers are already enquiring about the exhibition planned for next year so that they can structure their courses around it.

Transcending the topical value of an exhibition, so-called "archival teaching units", comprising a limited number

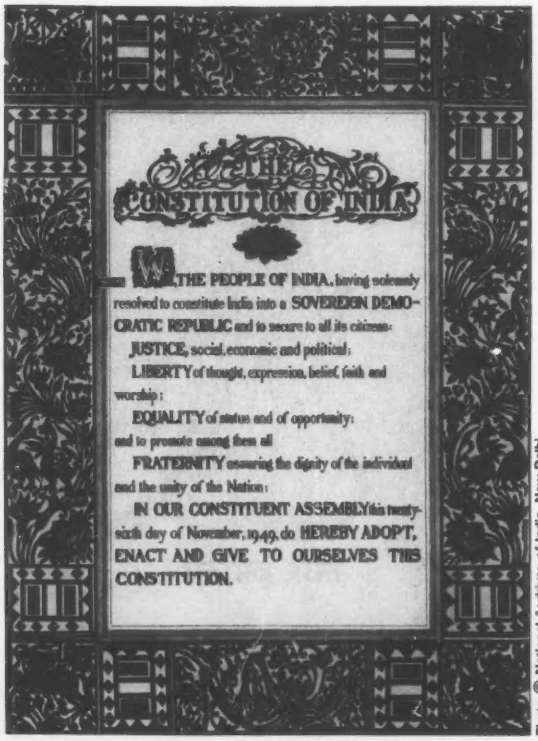

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA
WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Photo © National Archives of India, New Delhi

The preamble to the Constitution of India which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26 1949.

(generally six to twelve) of facsimile documents have been produced with the co-operation of public records offices. They are accompanied where necessary by transcriptions, translations and explanatory notes. Sets of transparencies with accompanying explanatory texts serve a similar purpose but they need to be supplemented by facsimile documents with which the pupils themselves can work.

Archival teaching aids of this kind are available in many States of the Federal Republic. They cover a large number of themes, especially economic and social history, crafts and craftsmen of the past, manufacturing and factories, road and railway construction. More general historical themes, such as the Reformation, the Thirty Years War, the impact of the French Revolution and the political struggles of the labour movement, also lend themselves to illustration with documents from the neighbourhood.

The archivist cannot cope unaided with this new, additional task in the educational field. Not all archivists have received pedagogical training or have previous teaching experience. If this work is to succeed, there must be co-operation between public records offices, school authorities, teachers and archivists.

In France an organized *Service éducatif* in the State and Departmental public archives and the attachment of qualified teachers to public archives, where they co-operate with archivists in organizing visits and preparing exhibitions and archival teaching units, goes back to the 1950s. In the United Kingdom too, the functions of the "Archive Education Officer" are becoming more and more widely recognized. An essential condition for the development of this type of co-operation is that the assistance of the public archives be made use of in the training of teachers and the running of guidance seminars for history teachers and future teachers. Arrangements of this kind are reported from many countries.

"Archive and School" is a new and unfamiliar concept for many archivists and for most teachers. Several decades of practice in France, and more recent experiments and expert discussions in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Socialist countries, show that this is an important task and that the archivist can help the teacher to instil new life into the historical legacy of the past. It is also a task to which particular weight should be attached in Third World countries concerned for their historical identity. A study planned for 1985 by Unesco's Records and Archives Management Programme, on the theme "Archives and Education", will develop guidelines for future action from a comparison of recent experiences in this domain. ■

ECKHARDT G. FRANZ, *of the Federal Republic of Germany, is lecturer in archive science at the Marburg school of archives, and honorary professor of modern history at the technical university of Darmstadt. He has carried out several missions for Unesco as a specialist, notably to Beirut, Khartoum and Tunis. He is the author of* Einfuhrung in die Archivkunde *("Introduction to Archive Science", 1974) and many articles and studies on history and archives.*

Sense and censorship

Behind the censor's blue pencil

by Peter Hanak

LARGE quantities of documents from the censorship services of the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy are today preserved in the Kriegsarchiv in Vienna and in the military history archives in Budapest. Between 1916 and 1918 a thousand censors, grouped according to language, examined from eight to ten million letters a month, devoting particular attention to correspondence with foreign countries, soldiers and prisoners-of-war. Letters considered to be harmless were sent on untouched to their recipients; passages in others were obliterated and some letters were even confiscated. The obliterated passages were scrupulously copied out by the censors, and, with the confiscated letters, provided the basis for reports written by the Censorship Office on the morale of the troops and the civilian population. Half a century later these documents have become historical sources.

These letters and fragments of letters provide the scholar with little reliable information about troop movements, casualties, the output of factories or harvest yields. On the other hand they do contain precious information about everyday life and about the prevailing spirit in the army and the country. Of course, the opinions expressed are far too moderate and loyal to be totally sincere, for their authors were quite aware that their letters would pass through the hands of the censor. But this in no way detracts from the informativeness of the material, for reading between the lines it is possible to discern grievances and news which the writers ingeniously but vainly sought to conceal from the censors.

Towards the end of the war, self-censorship became notably more relaxed. From Spring 1917 on, the letters reflect to a fair extent what the population was thinking and feeling. Some reports and extracts, like those concerning the desertion of the Serbs (1,300 extracts) or the repercussions of the October Revolution in Russia are of considerable interest to scholars. The overall impression of revolutionary ferment and of the radicalization of public opinion which emerges from these letters written by simple people is far more accurate than the contents of a biassed press subject to pressure from the authorities.

This material was highly suitable for quantitative studies through the statistical treatment of representative samples. But the first step was to establish a grid of the basic themes of popular thinking. To analyse the state of mind of the population between November 1917 and March 1918, the author of this article took a sample of 1,500 letters, two-thirds of which had been written by workers and peasants, and one-third by intellectuals and middle class people. In view of the ethnic structure of the monarchy, 46 per cent of the letters chosen were written by Austrians and Hungarians, and 54 per cent by members of other nationalities.

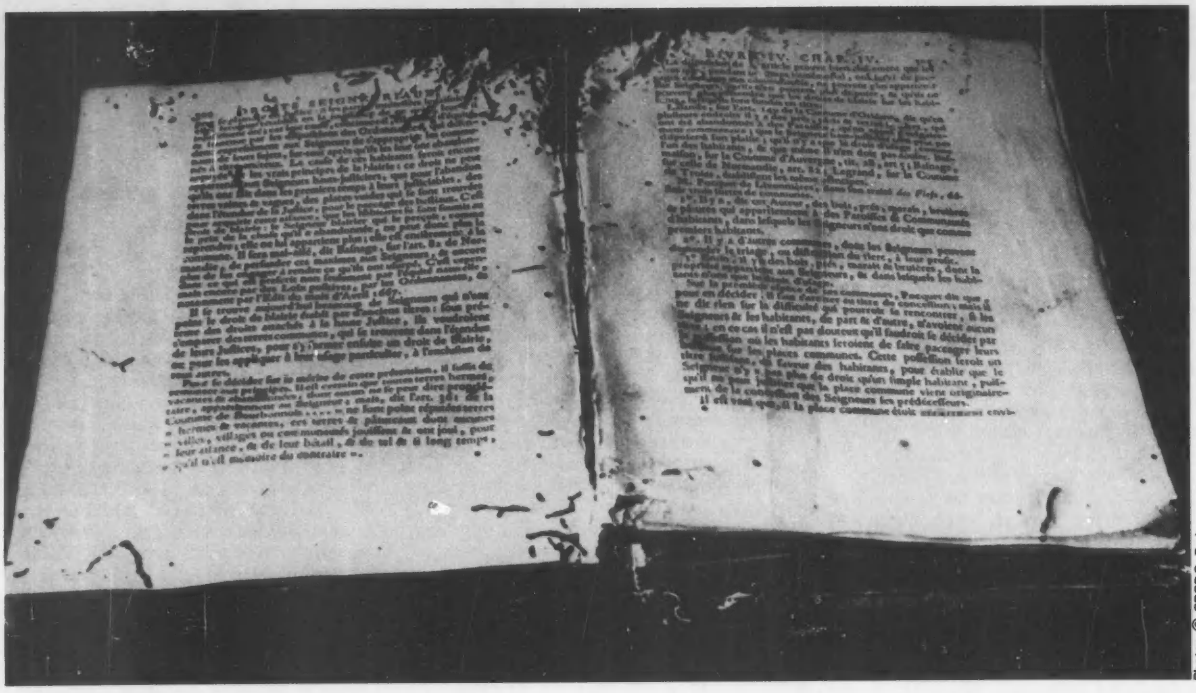
The most common theme is that of *social discontent* (inequalities between rich and poor, boss and workman), which was exacerbated during the war and is evoked in 37 per cent of the letters, in which the lives of the privileged, profiteers, and people in easy jobs are contrasted with the sacrifices of soldiers at the front and the poverty of the workers. Then comes the question of *work* which is raised in 36 per cent of the letters, most of the complaints expressed at the beginning of the war being motivated by the disruption of normal activities. Thirdly, *patriotism,* referred to in 27 per cent of the letters, covers the conflict between loyalty to the State (represented by the emperor) and the nationalism of the different peoples of the monarchy.

Social discontent, expressed in complaints against dire poverty, oppression and flagrant inequalities, and in sympathy for socialist movements and the Russian Revolution, intensifies in all the national groups as the months go by. The same tendencies emerge from letters in which the second theme appears, with nostalgia for peace being transformed into positive demands. The majority (60 per cent) of the letters in the third group reveal the discontent caused by the oppression of the nationalities and a more or less explicit desire for autonomy, although loyalty towards the State remains firmly rooted.

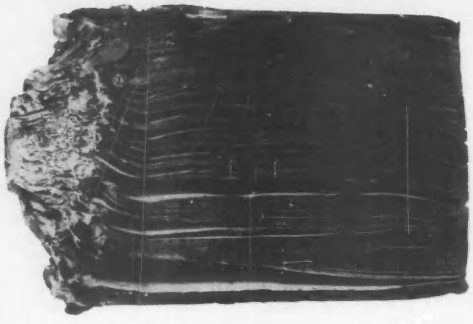
Quantitative analysis of the letters confirms the existence of a close correlation between social discontent and a desire for peace, and an inverse correlation between a desire for social justice and peace on the one hand, and aspirations for national autonomy on the other. It seems that after the Russian socialist revolution, the masses were ready to accept the maintenance of the system in exchange for an immediate peace, a point of view not shared by the intellectuals of the oppressed nationalities. "Victory is unnecessary, Russia is bringing peace", the Austrian censor remarked. "The people will soon put an end to all that", noted the Czech censor. "We need peace even at the price of a revolution," is the message of the letters read by the Hungarian censor. Strike movements at that time illustrate the same state of mind.

As well as making a direct contribution to our knowledge of the history of the First World War, the systematic analysis of the censorship archives in Vienna and Budapest can help us, in a broader context, to understand the mechanisms which formed public opinion and moulded public attitudes. ■

PETER HANAK, *of Hungary, is professor of the history of cultures at the Eotvos Lorant university and director of research at the Institute of Historical Sciences of his country's Academy of Sciences. His research is mainly concerned with the history of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and with problems of social and cultural history.*



Photos © CRCDG, Paris



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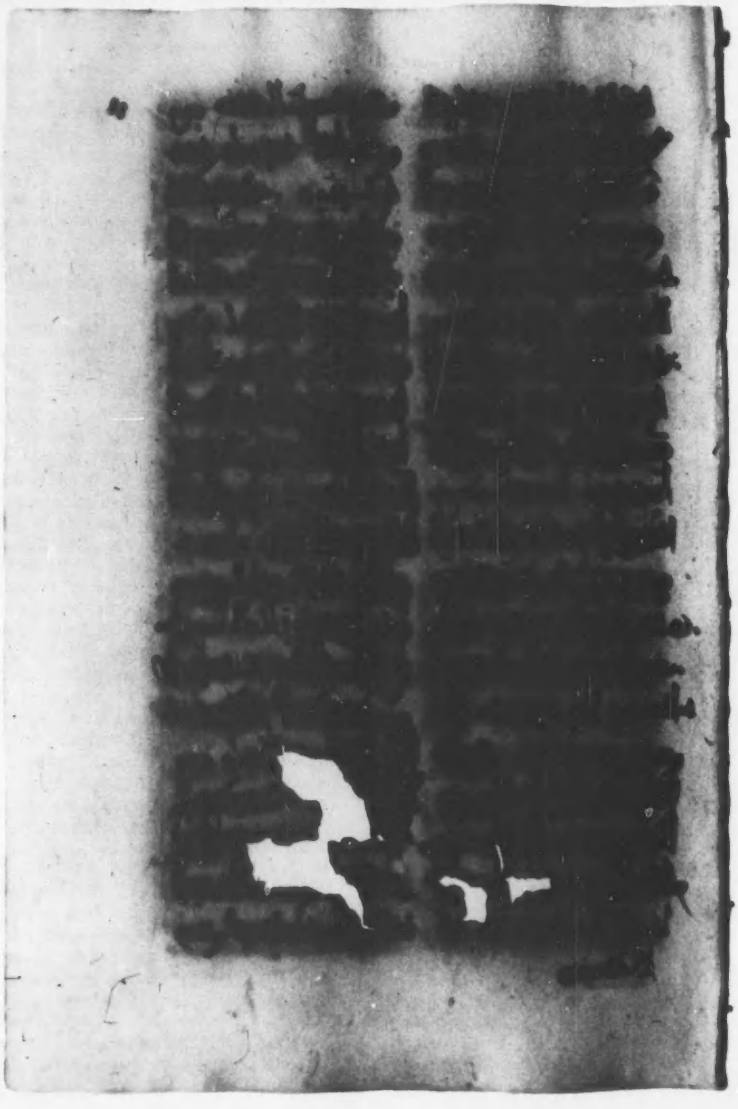


Enemies of the written word

All materials of vegetable or animal origin that are used as a surface on which to write are extremely fragile. A host of enemies lie in wait ready to attack. Depending on whether they are chemical, atmospheric or biological foes, they will assail either the outer surface or the very structure of the material. Inks fade and disappear, parchment and leather curl and craze. Insects and rodents devour organic materials; humidity, acid and light attack vegetable fibre; and fire can destroy anything combustible.

Throughout the world, research institutes are studying ways and means of protecting books and documents. As part of its action for the safeguard of the world's cultural heritage, Unesco is publishing a series of technical notes on the preservation and restoration of cultural property. The sixth of this series of publications, from which our photos are taken, is entitled *Livres et Documents: Sauvegarde et Conservation* (Books and Documents: safeguard and preservation), by Françoise Flieder and Michel Duchein (1983, in French only). Photos show examples of deterioration due to three different agents. Right, a Syriac document transformed into "lace" by the action of ink. Some inks, when subject to humidity have the effect of releasing sulphuric acid which eats away paper and parchment to give this lacework effect. Water too can cause considerable damage. Above, a book deteriorated by humidity. A wide variety of insects can cause havoc in libraries and archives. Top photo shows a book ravaged by the attentions of an insect of the *Anobidae* family (which includes the drugstore and death-watch beetles).

The Lenin Library

THE Lenin State Library is the most important library in the Soviet Union. It is the keystone of the country's unified library system, in which it acts as a depository for all publications, a co-ordination centre for library science and bibliographical work, a scientific and methodological centre, and a centre for inter-library loans.

The library was founded in 1862. Its nucleus was the library of Count N.P. Rumantsev, an early nineteenth-century Russian politician and scholar for whom it was named. In 1918, when the Soviet Government was transferred from Petrograd to Moscow, the Rumantsev public library became the National Library. In 1921 it was functioning as a State depository for all books published in the country, and in the same year began to extend its holdings through the acquisition of works of foreign literature, a process which has continued regularly ever since. An international exchange service was inaugurated. On 6 February 1925, by a decree of the Soviet Government, it was named the Lenin State Library.

On 1 January 1984 the holdings of the Lenin Library amounted to 331,243,000 titles. Each year a million new works are acquired, 600,000 non-periodical publications and 400,000 periodicals. The Library has almost 300,000 readers. Each year 2,215,000 entries are recorded, including 1,202,000 to the scientific reading rooms.

The Library publishes 500 titles each year. Its lending facilities serve 3,500 libraries in 110 countries. As part of inter-library exchange facilities, it receives approximately 125,000 books and supplies 210,000.

In 1987 the Lenin Library will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. ■

Photo © Lenin State Library, Moscow

"The Apostle", the first dated Russian book, was printed at Moscow in 1564 by the first Russian printer, Ivan Fedorov. It forms part of the rich collection of rare books and manuscripts in the Lenin State Library of the USSR.

The new science of bibliology

by Anne-Marie Bianchi

BIBLIOLOGY is a comparatively new science, dating from around the end of the eighteenth or the beginning of the nineteenth century. The word first appeared in France in 1812 in *Traité de Bibliologie* a "Treatise on Bibliology" by G. Peignot which he described as "a universal repertory containing critical and descriptive notes (...) on a large number of works (...) and covering every aspect of bibliography".

Bibliology as a science is arousing considerable interest today as two recent symposia bear witness. In 1981, a joint French/Bulgarian symposium on *Bibliology, Documentation and Information Sciences,* organized by the Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, was held in Sofia; and, in February 1984, a congress on *Research and the Teaching of Bibliology and Trades Relating to the Book* was held at the Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris.

The Paris symposium drew up a balance sheet of the state of the art and proposed the broad outlines of a policy for research on the book, for the teaching of bibliology and for the development of the teaching of professions connected with the written word, excluding newspapers and periodicals, for the period 1980 to 1990.

Bibliology can be said to be an extension of bibliography. Whereas bibliography is concerned primarily with the classification of books and articles, bibliology aims to examine and explain the various manifestations of the book and the written word in general with regard to its production and distribution as well as to its reading.

Bibliology is the study of the written word as a tool of communication within society, with all its sociological, cultural and economic implications. It therefore encompasses all the disciplines that are concerned with the world of books—bibliography, library management, book collecting, and the psychology and psychosociology of reading. ■

ANNE-MARIE BIANCHI, *of Italy, is director of the University of Grenoble bibliographical documentation and research centre, which she founded in 1963.*

A 'What's What' of libraries and archives

5,000 years of archives

3000-2800 BC. In the temple of Eanna, in the Mesopotamian city of Uruk (now Varka), not far from what was then the mouth of the Euphrates, accounts and inventories were written in Akkadian cuneiform script on clay tablets. It is from these, the oldest surviving written documents, that the first economic archives developed. At about the same period the hieroglyphic system of writing was being developed in Egypt. It was used initially for inscriptions on monuments.

1400-1200 BC. Diplomatic correspondence on clay tablets was documented in well organized chancery archives, remnants of which have survived in various capitals of the Eastern Mediterranean region such as Tell-el-Amarna in Egypt, Ugarit in Syria and the Hittite capital, Boghazköy, in present-day Turkey. Documents in clay tablet form dating from the same period have been found in the so-called Palace of Nestor, north of Pilos, in the Peloponnesus.

78-79 BC. The Tabularium of the central State archive of the Roman Empire was constructed at the foot of the Capitol, above the Roman Forum. Its ruins can still be seen. At first the Romans wrote on whitened wooden tablets (album). Later they adopted papyrus rolls from the Egyptians and Greeks. Fundamental laws were publicly displayed on bronze tablets.

98 AD. A document written in the Chinese province of Gansu testified to the invention of paper, which legend attributes to the minister Ts'ai Lun. From China paper arrived in Japan and Korea. It reached the Arabs about 750 via the trading centre of Samarkand and afterwards spread to the whole of the Arab cultural area.

538 AD. The Emperor Justinian decreed that the treaties and acts entered in the city registers or *gesta municipalia,* and permanently preserved in a special public building called the *archeion* or *archivum,* should be regarded as authentic. He thus integrated the archives into the *corpus juris* on which the development of European law is based.

753-755 AD. Deeds or charters on parchment with wax seals stamped on or hanging from them became the most important form of document during the European Middle Ages. The earliest ones which have come down to us, now in the National Archives in Paris, are the original charters issued by King Pippin to the Abbey of St Denis. The first archives of deeds and charters originated in monasteries. It was only later that city and State archives came into existence.

1198. The present register of the Vatican archives was begun when the Papal Chancery was transferred to the Vatican. The older register, in which the ancient tradition of the Roman public records or *commentarii* survived, was destroyed in the Lateran fire. Soon after 1200 a register of correspondence, which was important for the organization of archives, began to be kept in the royal chanceries of Paris, Barcelona and London. In the last-named capital they were kept in the form of rolls.

C. 1450. In addition to the older charter or treasury archives, there now appeared archives of administrative records, for which paper imported into Western Europe via Spain was already being used in rapidly increasing quantities from the 14th century onwards.

1794. The French National Convention adopted the Archives Law of 7th Messidor of the year II, under which the nation's archives, previously largely kept secret, were opened to the public. The system of organizing archives on national and regional or departmental lines, which was introduced under the revolutionary regime in France, became the model for modern archives organization in Western Europe.

1821. The *Ecole des Chartes,* the first school to specialize in training archivists and librarians, whose formation is concentrated on the study of historical sources, was established in Paris.

1841. A decree made work in French archives subject to *respect des fonds.* The principle of provenance, already partly observed elsewhere, under which archives are classified according to the authorities and institutions where they originated, became the fundamental modern system of archive organization.

1910. The first international congress of archivists and librarians was held in Brussels. The subjects discussed ranged from the repair of archive volumes and restoration problems to the economic archives then being set up and the handling of film archives.

1918. The revolutionary government in Russia led by Lenin issued the decree of 1.6.1918 on the "reorganization and centralization of archives". Its concept of a centralized State archive became the model for archives in the Socialist countries.

1948. Influenced by the damage caused to archives during the Second World War, a group of archive experts invited to Paris by Unesco decided upon the creation of the International Council on Archives (ICA). Archivists from 33 countries participated in the founding congress two years later.

1950. The passing of the Federal Records Act in the USA provided a legal basis for the system of rational records administration already in operation and for the establishment of record centres. The British Public Records Act of 1958 created another model for records administration.

1968. The creation of a regional archives association for Southeast Asia (SARBICA) confirmed the spread of modern archive concepts in the Third World. In the same year it was decided at a congress in Niamey to set up a regional training centre in Dakar. The result—EDAD—is a model for closer co-operation between archive, library and documentation centre. Meanwhile the International Council on Archives embraces nine regions in every part of the world. At the International Archives Congress in Washington in 1976 there was talk of a "geoarchival revolution".

1984. About 1300 archivists from over 100 countries took part in the 10th International Archives Congress in Bonn (FRG). Under the general theme of "the challenge to archives", the participants discussed the effects of computerization and the new media, and new tasks in the public sphere. ■

Built in 1534, during the Ming dynasty, the Imperial History Archive, located in the eastern part of Beijing, is the oldest and best preserved imperial archive in China. Right, the main hall of the Archive, built entirely in brick to reduce fire risk.

Photo © British Library, London

Frontispiece from the **Diamond Sutra**, *the world's earliest dated printed book. This Chinese version of a Sanskrit Buddhist text was discovered in a cave library at Dun-huang, Gansu province, in 1907. It depicts the Buddha preaching to his aged disciple Subhuti.*

The ancient Chinese used to inscribe their writings, mainly divinatory or oracular, on bones or tortoise shells which they preserved with great care. This inscribed fragment of bone, 3,000 years old and little more than two centimetres long, was unearthed recently at Zhouyuan, in Shanxi province.

Photos © Chinese edition of the *Unesco Courier*, Beijing

Archives by the kilometre

THE importance of the world's archival institutions, from large National Archives to local record offices, may be gauged from the number of people who use them or by the volume of their holdings, usually measured in metres of shelving—although such quantitative yardsticks provide only a limited indication of the value of their contents for research.

One of the world's oldest archival institutions is the General Archives in Simancas (Spain), with 9,500 metres of records some dating as far back as 834.

The largest archival institution outside Europe is the National Archives in Washington, D.C., which today has 470 kilometres of shelving. The Public Archives of Canada preserve 38 km of conventional archives, and 350 km of semi-current records administered in federal records centres throughout the country.

Europe's biggest archives are the Archives Nationales in France (350 km not including 36 km at the Archives d'Outre-Mer, 27 km at the Foreign Affairs archives and 65 km at the Armed Forces archives) and the Public Record Office in London, which holds 379 km (the India Office records occupy 11 km of shelving whereas the National Archives of India preserve 25 km).

The State Archives of Venice hold 68 km, surpassing archives which are historically as important such as the National Archives of Belgium (55 km) and Hungary (33 km).

The Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna preserves 25 km of data, but there are five other central archives in Austria, which together preserve 100 km.

In Czechoslovakia, federal, regional and local archives together preserve 563 km. In the Netherlands, a small, densely populated country with a long history in which cities played an important role, there are 383 km of historical archives, 63 km of which are in the National Archives at The Hague.

Major archives exist not only in Europe and North America. The National Archives of Zimbabwe preserve 49 km, not counting 33 km of semi-current records in other centres. In Nigeria the National Archives store 28 km.

All these institutions, as well as hundreds of smaller archives, are listed in the *International Directory of Archives* published by the International Council on Archives (a new edition is currently being prepared for publication this year. ■

Documentation centres

EUROPE

France. CDST — Centre de Documentation Scientifique et Technique du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

Science and technology, medicine and life sciences. Periodicals: 20,000 titles (including 13,000 current), plus theses, reports, congress documents. PASCAL bibliographic data base (5,000,000 references).

Federal Republic of Germany. FIZ — Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, Karlsruhe.

Energy, physics, mathematics. Periodicals, studies, patents. Data bases on INKA host.

United Kingdom. BLLD — British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa.

Provision of basic documents in all disciplines, 172,000 periodicals (including 56,000 current titles), 2,498,000 monographs, 2,515,000 reports, 390,500 theses and 184,500 congress documents.

USSR. VINITI — Vsesoyuznyi Institut Nauchno — Tekhnicheskoi Informatsii, Moscow (All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information).

Science and technology. Periodicals: more than 25,000 titles. 20,000 books. Data base, growing by 500,000 references yearly.

Hungary. OMIKK — Orszagos Müszaki Informacios Központ es Könyvtar, Budapest (National Technical Information Centre and Library).

Technical library with 400,000 books, 5,700 periodicals, 635,000 translations. Information dissemination system (conversational access to major European hosts).

ASIA

China. ISTIC — Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China, Beijing.

Science and technology. 18,000 current periodical titles, plus lectures, reports, theses, reference works. 2,000 scientific and technical films. 1,000,000 microform units.

Japan. JICST — Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (Nihon Kagaku Gijutsu Zyoho Senta), Tokyo.

Science and technology. 8,000 periodical titles; 10,000 books; 90,000 microform units; JICST-FILES data bases (2,250,000 references, growing at a rate of 400,000 per annum).

India. INSDOC — Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, New Delhi.

National depository for scientific periodicals and reports. 4,500 current periodical titles (110,000 volumes).

THE AMERICAS

Brazil. BIREME — Biblioteca Regional de Medecine, São Paulo.

Indexes Latin-American medical literature for the Index Medicus (2,200 references); organizes a national network of 280 medical libraries and 305 information units; 2,313 periodical titles plus 1,033 acquired by partners in the network. Obtains NTIS microfiches through the IBICT (Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology).

United States. NTIS — National Technical Information Services, Springfield Va.

Physical, biological and social sciences; technology; information science. Over 730,000 titles. Data bases: EPA Report System; NTIS Bibliographic Data File (850,000 items, growing by 70,000 yearly).

Canada. CISTI — Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, Ottawa (ICIST — Institut Canadien de l'Information Scientifique et Technique).

The most important Canadian collection of scientific, technical and medical publications. 34,000 periodical titles; 300,000 books; 1,550,000 microfiches plus congress documents and reports. Numerical data bases (CAN/SND); on-line access to major international data banks (CAN/OLE).

AFRICA

Senegal. Centre National de Documentation Scientifique et Technique, Dakar.

Economy, sciences and technology. Data base (75,000 references).

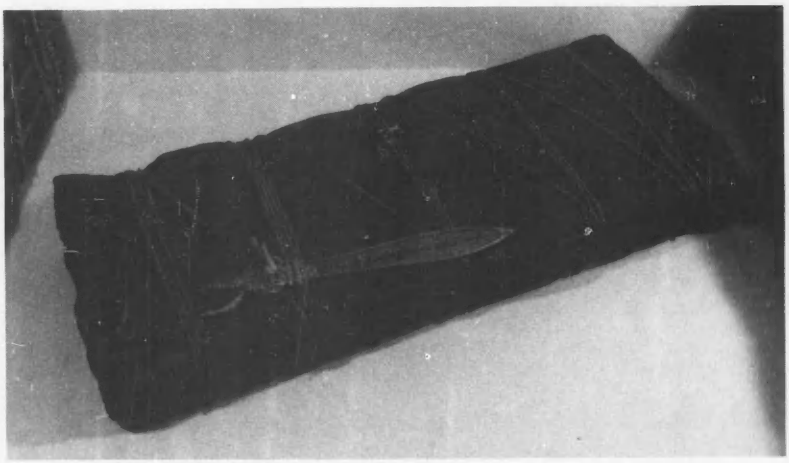
Egypt. NIDOC — National Information and Documentation Centre, Cairo.

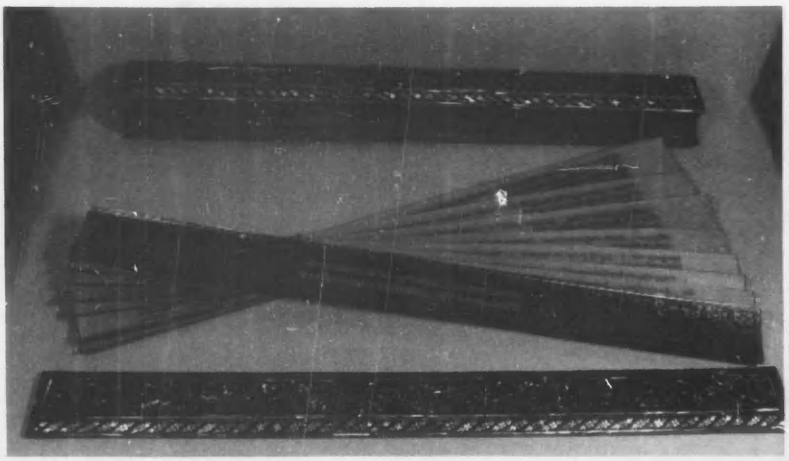
Sciences and technology. Almost 5,000 periodical titles and 30,000 books.

OCEANIA

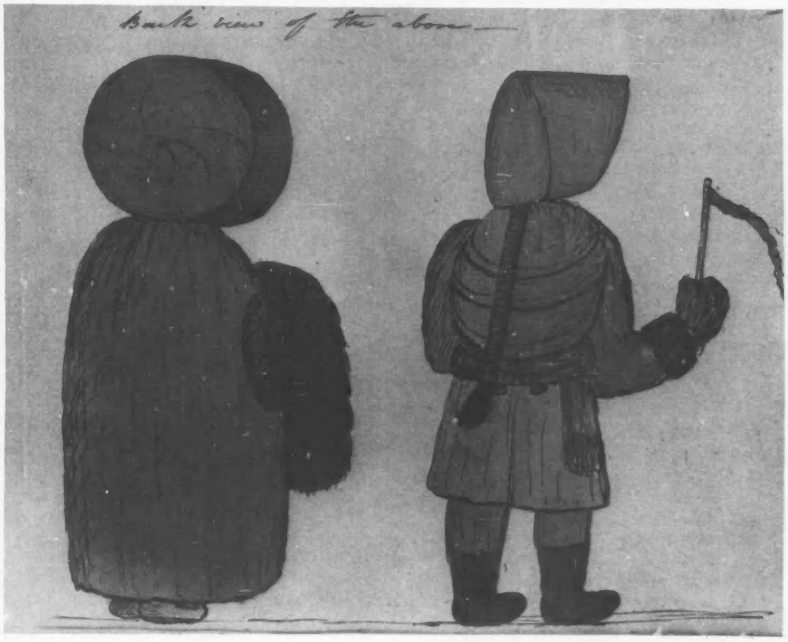
Australia. CSIRO — Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization; CLIS — Central Library and Information Service, Melbourne.

Central library and 70 network libraries, 17,000 periodical titles, 115,000 books.





Photos © National Library of Thailand, Bangkok



Photos © Canadian Public Archives, Ottawa

A Canadian man and woman in winter dress, Quebec, Canada, November 21, 1805. Ink drawing and watercolour by Sempronius Stretton.

The Manuscript Department of the National Library of Thailand has a fine collection of writings on palm leaves. Left, Buddhist palm-leaf manuscript, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, dating from the reign of Rama III (1824-1851). Above left, this palm-leaf manuscript has a gilt lacquer cover and is wrapped in a cloth bearing the emblem of King Mongkut (Rama IV) who reigned from 1851 to 1868.

Some major world libraries

National libraries

EUROPE

	Volumes
France. Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris	10,000,000
Germany (Fed. Rep.). Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich	4,700,000
United Kingdom. British Library, Reference Division, London	8,750,000
USSR. Gosudorstvennaya Ordena Lenina Biblioteka, Moscow	28,745,000

ASIA

China. National Library of China, Beijing	10,000,000
India. National Library, Calcutta	1,512,000
Japan. Kokuritsu Kokkai, Toshkokan (National Diet Library), Tokyo	3,790,000

THE AMERICAS

Brazil. Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro	3,500,000
Argentina. Biblioteca Nacional, Buenos Aires	1,600,000
United States. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.	19,578,000

AFRICA

Algeria. Bibliothèque Nationale, Algiers	920,000
Egypt. National Library, Cairo	1,500,000
Zaire. Bibliothèque Nationale, Kinshasa	1,200,000

OCEANIA

Australia. National Library of Australia, Canberra	2,120,000

University libraries

EUROPE

France. Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne, Paris	3,000,000
United Kingdom. Bodleian Library, Oxford	4,502,000
Cambridge University Library	3,549,000
USSR. A.M. Gorki Library of the Moscow Lomonosov State University	6,630,000

ASIA

China. Quing Hua University Library, Beijing	2,000,000

THE AMERICAS

Argentina. University of Buenos Aires	1,150,000
United States. Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Mass	10,260,570
Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn	7,402,000

UNESCO NEWSROOM

Photo Michel Claude, Unesco

Unesco Prize for Peace Education

Nominations are being invited for the Unesco Prize for Peace Education, which will be awarded for the fifth time this year. The purpose of the Prize is "to promote all forms of action designed to 'construct the defences of peace in the minds of men' by rewarding a particularly outstanding example of activity designed to alert public opinion and mobilize the conscience of mankind in the cause of peace." The Prize, which is worth $US 60,000, is awarded annually. According to the rules governing the award of the Prize candidates may be "an individual, a group of individuals, or an organization" and may be nominated by "Member States of Unesco, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations granted consultative status with Unesco and persons whom the Director-General deems qualified in the field of peace." Laureates are designated by the Director-General on the basis of proposals submitted by an international jury, the International Commission for Peace in the Minds of Men. Nominations should reach the Unesco Secretariat not later than 31 March 1985.

Kalinga Prize Awards

The 1984 Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science has been awarded to professor Yves Coppens of France and Academician Igor Petryanov-Sokolov of the Soviet Union. Prof. Coppens, who is the director of the Musée de l'Homme in Paris, is a distinguished palaeontologist who has written and lectured widely, given many radio and TV broadcasts, and organized numerous exhibitions including one on the origins of man which drew 300,000 visitors to the Musée de l'Homme in 17 months. Academician Petryanov-Sokolov, who is a professor at the Moscow Institute of Chemistry and Technology, has collaborated with a number of popular science magazines and took part in the production of the scientific section of the 12-volume Soviet Children's Encyclopaedia.

Finnish edition of the Unesco Courier

We are happy to announce the launching of a Finnish edition of the *Unesco Courier*, published by the Finnish National Commission for Unesco, Ministry of Education, Rauhankatu 4, SF - 00170 Helsinki 17. The publication of the first issue of the Finnish edition, in October 1984, brought the total number of different language editions of the *Unesco Courier* to 29, in addition to the quarterly Braille selection.

International Simon Bolivar Prize

The International Simon Bolivar Prize will be awarded for the second time in 1985. The biennial Prize, established by the Government of Venezuela and awarded under the auspices of Unesco, rewards activity of outstanding merit which has contributed to the freedom, independence and dignity of peoples and to the strengthening of solidarity among nations, or facilitated the quest for a new international economic, social and cultural order. The first recipients of the Prize, in 1983, were King Juan Carlos of Spain and Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader imprisoned in South Africa. The final date for the submission of nominations is 15 March 1985.

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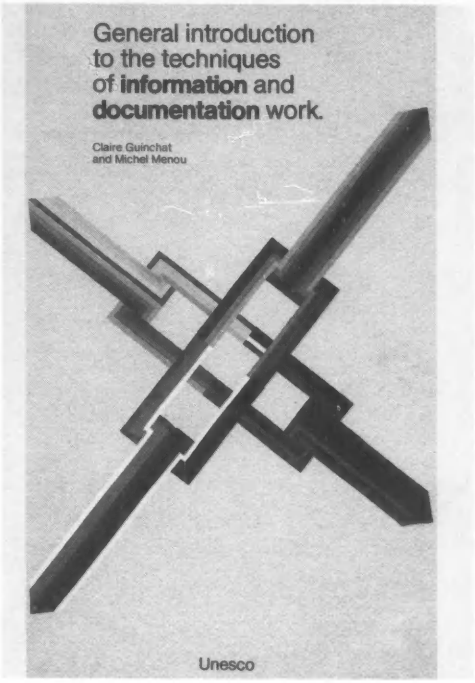
General introduction to the techniques of information and documentation work.
Claire Guinchat and Michel Menou
Unesco

In developing countries, the organization of efficient library and documentation structures is being held back largely by the absence or shortage of trained staff. **General Introduction to the Techniques of Information and Documentation Work** is a comprehensive, simply written, and easy-to-consult manual for all those who, in developing countries, begin their careers in information units without any basic training in information science. It aims to enable them to grasp the essential purpose of the activities they are asked to perform and to understand how these activities are related to the full range of means used to ensure the flow of information. It also provides a description, sufficiently detailed to serve as a guide, of the various operations, instruments and concepts related to information systems. Designed primarily as an instrument of self-training, to be used by the individual on his own, it could also be employed in information units or in colleges of information science as a reference work for training courses, as a guide for the preparation of courses or as a means of checking background knowledge prior to a course of specialized training.

1983 340 pages 90 French francs

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